

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXIII.]

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BIRTH

On March 15th, at Devon, 11, Peak Road, Hongkong, the wife of SIMON A. LEVY, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On March 9th, at Hongkong, ANDREW, fourth son of W. J. P. BEATTIE, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, to MARGERY KATHLEEN, youngest daughter of J. DAVIS, Under Secretary for Public Works, Sydney, N.S.W.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of 13th February arrived per the ss. *Prinz Eitel Friedrich*, on Wednesday, the 14th instant; and the French Mail of 16th February is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Armand Behic*, to-morrow, the 20th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The first section of the Peking-Kalgan railway, from Fengtai to Nankao, is now open to traffic.

The Board of Commerce has agreed to the opening of copper mines in Ningyuan district Szechuan.

There were over 500 cases of smallpox notified in Calcutta from 1st January to 10th February.

Experience has determined the Japanese War Office to discard the use of balloons and carrier pigeons in war.

L'Avenir du Tonkin announces that the native King of Cambodia will visit the Colonial Exposition at Marseilles.

The timber jettv at Arsenal Street Hongkong may now be used by the general public. It is to be known by the name of Arsenal Street wharf.

Famine is feared in certain districts of Saigon owing to the poor rice crop this season, the loss on the present harvest being even greater than last year.

The timber in Manchuria, near the Yalu river, is to be jointly worked by a Chinese and Japanese corporation which has a capital of some \$10,000,000.

The drydock *Devey* which is being towed to Manila arrived safely at the Canary Islands last week. Some slight repairs are being made there before proceeding.

The Board of Revenue has acceded to the demand that offices for the sale of office and rank be kept open for one year more both in Kwangtung and Chihli.

At a Shanghai Ratepayers' Meeting held on Mar. 13th a resolution declining to recognise the Chinese Consultative Committee was carried by a great majority.

The name of Mr. Thomas William Clarke has been added to the Hongkong list of authorised architects under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903.

The rioters at Nanchang are boldly confessing the massacre of missionaries and pleading that they were justified in the attack because the Catholics stabbed the magistrate.

Fish, salt and pork are exempted from the payment of import duties when imported into the Colony of Macao, and the exclusive rights for the sale of salt and fish are abolished.

A Chinaman who made a mistake and insulted some Japanese ladies at Singapore was seized by the male members of the household and covered with tar. The removal of this involved a long stay in hospital, and the loss of his queue.

The annual report of the British Municipal Council of Tientsin gives the shipping of the port during 1905 as numbered 500 steamers, with a total tonnage of 509,249, as against 504 with 515,857, in 1904; showing a slight decrease.

The Chinese in Annam have addressed a petition to the Waiwupu concerning the severity of the French laws under which the Chinese suffer, "and by which they have lost almost every right." The Chinese merchants request the Foreign Office to telegraph to the Chinese Minister in Paris to make representations to the French Government on the subject with a view to the alteration of the laws.

According to observations made at Hongkong Observatory during the month of February the maximum temperature was 64 and the minimum 56.6 deg. The amount of rain which fell during the month was 2.250 inches.

A concert was given on board H.M.S. *Hecla* at Hongkong on March 14th in celebration of the first anniversary of commissioning day. An interesting preliminary was the presentation by Mrs. E. Charlton of a silver cup to Charles Hurcum, leading seaman, for gallantry in saving life at sea. The noteworthy contributors to the programme were Mr. G. Evans, Mr. W. C. Danaber, the popular ship's steward, Mrs. Clark and Mr. Carruthers.

The list of Justices of the Peace for 1906 appears in the current *Government Gazette*. We note the addition of several new names, including Messrs. A. S. Abdulcader, Chau Tung-shang, A. Bryer, W. L. Carter, J. G. Douglas, C. Forsyth, A. R. Fullerton, W. D. Graham, Ho Kom Tung, J. A. Jupp, E. Mast, J. R. Michael, A. H. Ough, W. Parlano, J. Paterson, H. G. Simms, F. Smyth, Tong Lai-chuen, W. Wilson, Yung Hin Pong.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, as agents of the Ocean S. S. Co. and the China Mutual S. S. Co., are being sued by Messrs. Siber, Wolff & Co. at Yokohama for Yen 1,541.80, damages for alleged short delivery of linen and flannel shipped from England. The defendants' case is that the goods were duly delivered, and lost by the plaintiffs. As is common in Japanese courts, the case was adjourned, and will probably be repeatedly adjourned before we learn the result.

We learn from the *Singapore Free Press*, that the E. & A. Company's steamer *Australian* went ashore in the Torres Straits last month. The British steamer *Aparima* sighted here on the 14th ult. and stood by the *Australian* for two days rendering her assistance, and on the third day hawsers were made fast to the *Australian* and she was towed off the reef successfully and she was enabled to proceed on her voyage, the *Aparima* continuing to Singapore.

A daring robbery took place in Chefoo harbour within 200 yards of the Standard Oil Co. jetty on Feb. 20th. A pirate junk came in from sea and attacked two of four junks which were anchored just off the jetty. The pirates were well armed with revolvers and rifles, and succeeded in getting away with 4,000 cash (four hundred "tiao"). Two junks which were loaded got under way and put to sea for fear of being attacked, but, as the pirates put to sea also, after finishing their work, there was every possibility they would capture the other two outside the harbour.

After thirty-one years' service in educational work in Hongkong, Mr. Alfred J. May has retired. Mr. May arrived in the Colony in 1875 and was attached to St. Paul's College. He became an assistant master at Queen's College in January 1879, was appointed second master in 1888, and has held that position ever since. On two occasions during the absence on leave of Dr. Bateson Wright, Mr. May acted as headmaster of the College. He travelled home via America, by the *Minnesota*. Mr. May has always enjoyed the respect and esteem of the students in the College, and it may safely therefore be said of him in leaving the scene of thirty-one years' labour that the good wishes of a multitude of past and present students will go with him.

THE SUCCESSION TO THE DRAGON THRONE.

(Daily Press, 10th March)

THAT there has been serious trouble within the precincts of the Imperial Palace at Peking there is, notwithstanding official denials, no room for doubt. The Dowager Empress, who succeeded so ably in getting hold of the reins of government, and who notwithstanding the difficulties inherent to her originally inferior position in the Household, has made her private wishes law throughout the empire of China, and has well passed her seventieth year, must soon in the natural outcome of things begin to lose that power of initiative which up to the present has carried her in safety through the multifarious plots and intrigues of which Chinese human nature even more than that of other races, after an experience of upwards of twenty centuries, has shown itself so prolific. That the Dowager Empress is beginning to feel her declining vigour is pretty evident from her declared wish to have the succession to the throne put on some stable basis, but the very mention of this has had the effect of arousing all the dangerous elements which are sure to surround a disputed succession. A short time ago, in commenting on the advisability of settling this difficult affair in advance, we gave a sketch so far as outside information was available of the princes of the blood nearest of kin to the Throne; but it seems that so apparently simple a problem is not so easy of solution as at first sight it would appear. Much of this difficulty has, of course, proceeded from the former attempts of the Empress Dowager to interfere with the succession, the most serious of which was the choice of an agnate in the same generation to succeed the deceased Emperor Tung-chi, and the consequent persecution of his ill-fated widow, the Empress Alutia, who there is good reason to believe was at the time pregnant. The details of all this have been carefully screened from the outside world; but in order to do so unusual precautions had to be taken, and the very taking of these precautions, which could not naturally be concealed from the sharp eyes of the Peking populace, has been prolific in raising a crop of more or less crude surmises, none having any authentic foundation; but of some slight importance as indicating, like feathers, the current of popular thought. The apparently authentic discovery of some carefully manufactured bombs on the railway premises outside the city would indicate that some plot was being hatched which would need for its accomplishment resort to violence, but no evidence to connect them with any individual or party has as yet appeared, and the secret, for China at least, where such things generally leak out long before they are ripe for execution, has been well kept on both sides. Rumours have been current amongst the Chinese that actual officials of high rank are prepared to take advantage of the position, and are even aiming at the Throne; but all such rumours must be received with caution. It is a fact that nerveless as the Chinese system of administration seems to be, no high officer of the throne, with a few rare examples, notably at the close of the Eastern Han, has ever found himself in a position to openly claim the Throne. One of the chief reasons is, of course, that in the main the high officials, who are always carefully selected for administrative ability, are well affected and possessed of sufficient power to prevent any one of their number actually taking up arms. Even the late Li Hung-chang, who certainly was restrained by no scruples of conscience, found it more profitable to

administer his province than embark on the uncertain waters of rebellion. It was not indeed till his Imperial master had kicked him out of the Palace that he made up his mind to open sedition, and then it took the form of lending himself to the private designs of the Empress Dowager, which he certainly influenced for evil. But if such be the position with regular officials, there are others whose attitude is at best anomalous, and who apparently have every interest in prolonging the present state of uncertainty. Foremost amongst these is, of course, the eunuch Li Lien-ying, known to the Chinese as the "False Eunuch." It is notorious that of all the Emperor's subjects Li Lien-ying has been the most successful in gaining the personal favour of the Dowager: his position entitles him to access to the most private apartments of the Palace, and being an ambitious and clever man he at an early date contrived to gain an ascendancy over the mind of his imperious mistress such as no one else possesses. The ancient ballad, well known to every Chinese scholar, sings:—

"Who learn no right, know no remorse,
Are woman and her unsexed crew,"
and the imperial eunuch is the most despised of all about the Court; but this by no means deprives him of power, and a eunuch more clever than usual may, as Li Lien-ying, make himself an influence in the State who cannot be disregarded by the highest official. But Li Lien-ying, besides being ambitious, is acquisitive, and turns the tables on those that profess to look down on him by making them the butt of his exactions. He has thus, even beyond the favour of his imperial mistress, a very substantial basis of power in the back ground in being enormously wealthy; so that in popular imagination Li Lien-ying is at the beginning and end of every story connected with the Palace. It is thus no matter of surprise that he should be popularly connected with every movement about the Imperial residence. Li Lien-ying's movements have, therefore, a significance, such as does not appear with regard to those of any other individual however highly placed, and the mere rumour of his having been dismissed by the Empress Dowager flew like wildfire; and his apparent return to the Palace gave birth to all manner of sinister reports. With his Imperial mistress he possesses one thing in common, and that is the faculty of keeping his own counsel. Who are his friends, and who his enemies, and in whose favour he utilises, whether for himself or someone else, his influence is practically an unknown factor, and this aggravates the uncertainty of the situation.

Still the fact remains that affairs in the Imperial Palace at Peking are by no means in a satisfactory condition, and any day we may hear of an explosion which will affect the Empire, or even lead to European complications.

JAPAN AND BRITISH ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, 12th March.)

The London papers which arrived by the English mail reflect the flutter created last month in British Army circles by a telegram which Reuters's correspondent sent from Japan affirming that General Terauchi, the Minister of War, had announced in the Diet that having regard to the obligations of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance he would urge the British Government to reform its army organisation at some future date. In military circles, of course, susceptibilities were hurt by the telegram. In Berlin it

was the subject of general comment. Most of the Press organs, we are informed, affected to regard General Terauchi's alleged remarks as humiliating to England and a blow to her pride. There was a general consensus of opinion in Berlin that nothing short of compulsory military service can bring the British army up to what is described as the Continental level, and it was concluded from the Tokyo telegram that army reform was the wedge which would split up the structure of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, "as Japan will not consent for long to any one-sided bargain." It is only necessary to offer upon this comment the criticism that the two Powers solely concerned were fully cognisant of the organisation of each other's forces when the compact was made, and it may moreover be safely affirmed that neither Power conceived any desire to interfere in such military administrative arrangements of the other as are embodied in Army Reform Schemes propounded in England both before and since the Treaty was signed. It seems to us that only in ignorance of the exact terms of the Treaty, or with ironic intention, could the reference made by the Japanese War Minister be taken to concern the British War Office schemes for re-organisation. So far as the English papers we have seen disclose public feeling with regard to what was later ascertained to be a misleading announcement, we observe that where it was not received with caution prompted by a belief that the Minister's remarks had been misconstrued or misinterpreted, it was treated in its humorous bearing upon the Army Reform schemes of the late Government. A cartoon in the *Tribune*, the new Liberal organ, pictures John Bull sitting at his desk surprised by the intrusion of a Japanese officer with a message in his hand bearing the words "Terms of Anglo-Japanese Alliance." In a capacious waste-paper basket beside John Bull's desk are to be observed documents representing the Army schemes of Mr. Arnold Foster, Mr. Brodrick and others, and Japan is represented as saying to John Bull, who is looking up in amazement at the intruder: "May your abject servant venture to enquire if my most estimable friend has yet got his army in a state of active efficiency?" Japan at the time heard only of the resentment General Terauchi's alleged remark had aroused, and nobody was more distressed about it than the General himself, who speedily set to work to correct the erroneous impression created by imperfect translation. Article VII. of the Treaty of Alliance reads: "The conditions under which armed assistance shall be afforded by either Power to the other in the circumstances mentioned in the present agreement, and the means by which such assistance is to be made available, will be arranged by the Naval and Military authorities of the contracting parties, who will from time to time consult one another fully and freely upon all questions of mutual interest." In the Diet on January 31st an interpellation was addressed on this clause of the agreement to the War Minister, who was asked whether such negotiations as the clause contemplates had already commenced. General Terauchi replied that he was aware of the terms of the Treaty of Alliance, and that the stipulation referred to would be acted upon, but the Government had not yet entered into any discussion on the subject. In the translation and condensation for telegraphic purposes this was made to read that the War Minister had announced his intention at some future date to urge upon the British Government the necessity of reforming

the organisation of the British Army. While General TERRAUCHI promptly disclaimed this interpretation of his remark when it was brought to his notice by reports received through his General Staff of the feeling of resentment it was reported to have created in England, yet the answer as it was misinterpreted exactly fitted in with the motive of Mr. OISHI, who interrogated the MINISTER on the subject. For in an interview with REUTER's correspondent he authorised the statement that his "sole motive in calling attention to the British Army organisation was his desire to assist the noble ally of Japan in effecting a most difficult but indispensable reform. He had not the slightest intention of wounding British susceptibilities. A stimulus from outside often helped, he thought, to facilitate the accomplishment of a difficult task." If that was Mr. OISHI's intention he seems to us to have entirely misconceived the meaning of the clause of the Treaty which surely does not sanction the interference of either Power in the administrative schemes of the other. General TERRAUCHI's disclaimer, while it is not as clear on this point as it might be, is sufficiently emphatic in its repudiation of the construction placed upon his reply to Mr. OISHI; and now, in diplomatic parlance, "the incident is closed," and, as at the end of another famous comedy, we are able to breathe again and say "All's well that ends well." But though closed, the incident will not be forgotten, because the unconscious irony of Mr. OISHI's statement is certain to appeal strongly to the critics whenever the subject of Army reform comes under discussion.

NEW TRADE CENTRES IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

It has become difficult of late to keep count of the number of places the Chinese Government is being asked by the merchants and gentry in all parts of the Empire to open as centres of international trade. Chinanfu in Shantung was the first of such places to be opened, and at the inauguration ceremony in January last the GOVERNOR of SHANTUNG announced that Chinan was but the first of many towns in the interior which the Chinese Government of its own initiative proposed to open to the trade of the world. His EXCELLENCY's remarks, however, did not suggest that the Government would show any undue haste in the matter, for those present at the inauguration ceremony were informed that the prosperity of all the commercial centres subsequently to be voluntarily opened by China to foreign trade would "rest on the foundations laid at Chinanfu." The inference to be drawn from this remark is that the Chinese Government regarded Chinanfu as an experiment, and that not until the Government had seen and were satisfied with the fruits of that creation would they plant these foreign trade centres wherever the demand existed for them. The demand seems to exist in a surprisingly large number of places, for it is stated that almost every day mention is made in the Northern native press of petitions being sent up to the Throne praying for the opening of some fresh city. The Government's complaisant attitude towards the movement is in some quarters regarded as not so spontaneous as it appears. It is suggested that if China does not of her own free will open up the interior the Government has sufficient foresight to anticipate that the great progress which is being made in railway construction throughout the length and breadth of the country will inevitably be followed by much pressure on the part of the Powers to secure

the opening of suitable trade centres along the railway routes. So the Government is forestalling the Powers in this respect. Whether from the view-point of the foreign trader, commercial settlements under Chinese control will be satisfactory is a question which may for the present be reserved; it is certainly a remarkable sign of the times that the merchants and gentry of so many places in the interior manifest such intense eagerness to welcome the foreign trader within the walls of their cities.

We notice a striking criticism in a Northern contemporary on what is described as the craze for the opening of these new trading centres, but the criticism seems to be based on the assumption that places approved by the Throne have been opened forthwith without the slightest preparation having been made. "If bona fide commercial expansion was aimed at," says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, "China would in the first place endeavour to ascertain which would be the most advantageous place to be opened from the foreign standpoint, as all trade has to pass through foreign hands; and this point being settled conditions might be attached to the effect that no port or centre would be so opened until at least three or four consuls and merchants signified their intention of going, there within a given time. Instead of this the Chinese are opening these centres wherever they have an idea they should be opened, and with little regard to the trade conditions governing the place or the probabilities of it being likely to attract commercial representatives. Not only this, but they still further qualify the boon by surrounding it with conditions which are both arbitrary and prohibitive." We think this criticism a little unjust, for the Throne has not approved the opening without inquiry into the prospects of the places concerned. Our contemporary proceeds to refer approvingly to a report that at Hsin-ning, in Kwantung, the gentry and merchants, in asking for the place to be opened are taking time by the forelock in raising funds to make roads, build houses, and construct railways which will connect the town with the coast and the marts of Hongkong and Macao. This is contrasted with the state of things at Chinanfu, "where before he knows whether business will make it worth his while, the foreign merchant is required to start his connection with the place by leasing certain lands, building expensive premises, on which he may or may not realise face value or be justified by commercial prospects in investing at all." These remarks might have been written even of Hongkong in its early days. But given the opportunity to trade in such places as Chinan there will not be wanting the men prepared to take ordinary business risks. As to what steps, if any, China is taking to ascertain the views of the foreign representatives regarding the suitability for foreign trade of the places the Government is voluntarily opening we have no information; but if what has happened at Chinan is followed at the other centres which are to be thrown open, our contemporary's criticism would have no great value. Within a month after the opening of Chinan, a British Consul, a German Consul and an American Consular Agent were established there. Building operations have been in active progress and quite a foreign community is developing. If the restrictions which surround the privileges of trade in these places are such as to render the advantages illusory, and foreign trade is hindered rather than fostered, the Chinese Government defeats its own end. China's avowed object in opening these places is the

encouragement of foreign trade, the banishment of mutual distrust and the increase of friendship. Upon the honest attempts of the Chinese themselves depend the fulfilment of the pious wish for "a perpetual and peaceful bond between China and all nations." We are inclined to think that in resolving on the opening of these places under Chinese control, one of the main aims China has in view is to prepare herself with object lessons for the time when she will attempt to follow so far in the footsteps of Japan as to ask of the Powers the surrender of their extraterritorial jurisdiction in the Treaty Ports. That time, however, is yet a long way off, and the Chinese authorities need to give much better proof of their administrative capacity, as well as of their friendliness to the stranger within their gates, than has been shown hitherto, before the Powers will seriously consider any proposal tending to the surrender of extraterritorial jurisdiction. But these steps tend in that direction and the future of such places as Chinan will be watched with interest.

FRENCH AND GERMAN RELATIONS.

(Daily Press, 14th March.)

It would seem that after the differences of opinion regarding the policing of the new Morocco which had arisen between Germany and France had gone up to almost fever heat, under more peaceful and probably wiser councils some way of escape without needlessly compromising either party has been discovered. France and England, secure in the thought that no new combination to affect the immediate interests of either had been contemplated, naturally looked only to the immediate present. The disturbed state of Morocco was a momentary source of trouble to both, which might at any period become dangerous, and therefore invited some immediate interference so as to bring Morocco more into line with Europe. As at the eastern outlet of the Mediterranean the two nations had made common cause; and Egypt and the passage of the Suez Canal were now on a perfectly safe footing: if France should at the western extremity undertake such a work of regeneration as England had accomplished in the east, it was clear that the safety of the Mediterranean was assured, at all events for the next generation, and that both could rest secure; while the trade of Europe with the East was for the future placed on a safe basis. So thought France, and so on looking into the matter came to think England: each had gained its object, and neither had any desire or even idea that anyone else could by any manner of means find anything in the arrangement at which to cavil. It certainly never entered into the mind of either to interfere in any way with the free use of the Mediterranean by the whole world; and the probability is that not one statesman in either country ever wasted a thought on what to him would have at once seemed a policy as foolish as it would have been suicidal. Whatever ideas might in the eighteenth century have passed through the minds of the statesmen of the day as to the feasibility of making of the Mediterranean a "French Lake," those ideas certainly found no standing room in the policy of the nineteenth. Even LESSER in his wildest moments of ambition regarding his great creation, the Suez Canal, never ventured on such a dream. Why France and England, then, in squaring up the little private grievances each thought it had against the other at the two extremities of the Medi-

terranean, did not go off to consult Germany was that the idea of at all interfering with Germany never entered the imagination of either. When those little grievances had on one occasion become a little more irritating than usual Germany had very wisely said in as many words the affair was none of hers, and certainly nothing that had since turned up appeared to alter Germany's interest in the affair. We say *appeared* deliberately, because of course Germany may have viewed the affair from another standpoint, and things which in England's and France's perspective may have seemed so insignificant as not to strike the retina, seen from the different point of view of Germany may have loomed large and important. Something of the sort may of course have been possibly the case, though Germany has not on her side made any attempt to explain; perhaps considering that what was evident to her could not but be equally plain to her neighbours. On the other hand what from a French or English point of view may seem an inconsistency in the utterances of Germany with regard to Morocco in 1880 and again in 1905, may very possibly from a German standpoint seem but the carrying out of an identical and perfectly consistent line of policy. It is, for instance, quite natural that Germany should view with entire complacency a divergence of opinion between the two western states as to the two entrances, from east and west, of the Mediterranean; while at the same time she might not feel so happy at finding both in entire agreement. Germany has ambitions of her own, none the less real that she does not parade them from the house-tops. She is not quite content that she has all the coast line that she would desire: Holland and Belgium, for instance, block her approach to the southern part of the North Sea, and she would feel it a grievance, if nothing more, were France and England to combine to appropriate what she considers her revisionary rights. The idea is perfectly natural, and we have no reason to cavil at it. But she has, or a party within her dominions fancies she should have, certain aims with regard to a German port on the Adriatic. True she does not parade her aims, and scarcely airs them within her inner consciousness; still she likes to keep them snugly there, and as long as France and England had any serious differences as to their Mediterranean policy she might continue to nurse the idea as a possible if remote contingency. Too good an understanding between the two might possibly remove such a contingency from the domain of imaginable politics. Fostering then within herself such dangerous, though unexpressed even to herself, ambitions, we can understand why Germany should have her suspicions, even though no foundation for them exist, aroused by what she would fain believe to be a well-laid plot to curtail her freedom in the Mediterranean. The present political divisions of Europe in the eyes of the philosophic statesmen may not be ideally perfect, but they are the outcome of forces working for more than a millennium, and in consequence may be looked upon as fairly stable. This doctrine has been accepted in its entirety by, at least, France and England, both of whom are well content from previous experience of the danger of meddling to allow Europe to rest as she is. Within the last three centuries English soldiers have on more than one occasion been found fighting the battles of the Continent, but in every case it was to preserve the balance of power threatened by one or other continental states; and when that was arranged the English troops have

on each occasion been withdrawn, and no claim to any permanent occupation raised. It is unlikely that in the face of history England should now claim to inaugurate a different policy: far more likely is it that she has for ever abandoned any policy of interference which would lead her to send an armed force amongst her continental neighbours. Such an event could, indeed, only take place in the case of a gross breach of existing treaties on the part of one of the other Powers. France too has seen the inadvisability of seeking in the political slang of the day to "rectify her boundaries." The lesson taught to each by the events of the last century has been that it is far better, and far safer, to bear with the irregularities of the present than seek to rectify them by violence, which, however successful, would result in far more serious loss. Any serious breach, in fact, between Germany on the one hand and France and England on the other would dislocate the entire European system, both political and commercial, so completely that the vacuum would have to be filled from outside. Now Germany knows this as well as France; but from the remains of an old suspiciousness which she has felt some difficulty in freeing herself from she has not been able to appreciate it so completely. Unfortunately sentimental grievances are frequently more difficult to remove than substantial wrongs, and this it seems has been the great bar to an understanding. On the other hand, the position has been one where, without compromising themselves, friendly Powers have been able to offer suggestions, and this has apparently been the case at Algieras. Once assured that the understanding between France and England really covered no cunning attempt to lower German prestige, or interfere in any way with German interests, there should be little difficulty in coming to an understanding mutually satisfactory. It has been difficult for France to make this fully understood, but there is no reason why a friendly Power looking on the affair from a different horizon should not be able to convince each of the reasonableness of the other's doubts. In any case, in view of the melancholy failure in nearly every instance of the principle of "international" control, on which Germany founds her objections to the French proposals, it is evident that France had fairly reasonable grounds for objecting to the suggested measure where her own interests are so immediately concerned; and it is apparently only Germany's failure to appreciate this one point that has stood in the way of a complete understanding.

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

Following the view which has been put forward by the *Times* on the authority of its correspondent in China, we find that the *Morning Post* has called prominent attention to the state of feeling existing in China and has raised a warning voice as to the possibility of danger. Reviewing the policy of the British Government in the past, the writer says that "from 1825 to 1895 British policy in the main consisted in the effort to secure for British traders in the Chinese Empire such conditions of security for person and property as would render possible the continuance of a trade the existence of which was its own justification;" but that "the Chinese Government never seems to have kept its engagements except under pressure of the same force, either actual or potentially visible, by which they had been imposed." He goes on to observe that in 1895 a new period opened, when the British

Government, appealed to by the Chinese for advice whether the concession of Port Arthur to Russia should be refused, declined to promise support in case such refusal should be followed by a Russian attack, and that China "feeling herself deserted by England, powerless to resist Russia without help, consented to all Russian demands." The writer adds that as a consequence the impression received by China was that foreigners were one and all bent on obtaining for themselves as much Chinese territory as possible, and he blames England for not having made an alliance with Japan for the purpose of securing to that country the position she had gained in the war with China, and of helping China to defend herself against Russia. This course, he argues, "might have spared the Far Eastern world many of its subsequent trials."

This argument is likely to be accepted somewhat too hastily now, when the relative position of Russia and of Japan is totally different from what it was at the time in question. No one in 1895 would imagine that Japan could by any possibility hold her own against such a Power as Russia then was; and indeed everything pointed to an opposite conclusion. An alliance between Great Britain and Japan at that time would have meant that we should have taken upon ourselves an enormous responsibility in a matter which might, so far as our interests were concerned, in all probability be settled by peaceful negotiation. To have rushed into a war with Russia, aided, as then appeared likely, by other European Powers, would have been in the highest degree imprudent, and it would in all likelihood have led to most disastrous results. It is not to be overlooked that at that time Japan was quite unprepared for a struggle with Russia alone, to say nothing of her being supported by some other Power; so that, as far as could be judged at that time the attitude that is advocated would have meant that Great Britain was to be the champion at all costs of the integrity of China. Under such circumstances, clearly the prudent plan was to await the course of events and see whether the difficulty might not be adjusted by pacific means. This, in effect, was the policy that was adopted. Japan, the Power most immediately concerned, did her best to stay the progress of Russian aggression by means of negotiation and in this she was supported by Great Britain. At the same time she prudently made herself strong enough to cope with a Power whom she could not have faced at the time the question arose; and was thus ready to meet the matter if possible by diplomacy, but if no other course were left to her, by resistance. Under such circumstances it was reasonable that Great Britain should form an alliance, which at an earlier stage would have been an act of imprudence for her to effect. Even at the time when the first Japanese alliance was formed, there were many who doubted the prudence of the action and considered, not without some show of reason, that too great a responsibility had been incurred. It is, therefore, unreasonable at this stage of affairs to cry back, and argue as if the conditions were the same in 1895 as they are at the present time. But even if such had been the fact, it could scarcely be expected that Great Britain would be very eager to move in the matter at the special instigation of China. The Chinese have never shown themselves the friends of Great Britain; and have always gone upon the principle of mistrusting her, and of pitting other nations against her, so as to prevent aggression, which they foolishly, as we say, assumed was

likely otherwise to take place on her part. It is doubtful whether at any time Great Britain would have taken the responsibility of adopting a forward policy in China, and landing herself in the position of being responsible for the government of any part of the Celestial Empire. She had quite enough responsibility of this kind already in India and other directions. But it was always assumed by the Chinese that such was her design, and they were quite willing to pit her against Russia and rely upon the jealousies between the two nations being sufficient to enable her to defy them both. When, however, it appeared that Great Britain was not prepared to go beyond moral influence in trying to prevent the advent of Russia, the Chinese were no doubt much disappointed; but looking at the matter fairly, it can hardly be said they had reason for complaint. Had they at an earlier stage made common cause with Britain by at least showing a willingness to adhere to Treaty obligations, they might have had some kind of claim to more consideration. But the precise opposite was the fact, and it would have been Quixotic indeed for Britain to run the risk of hostilities for the benefit of so doubtful a friend as China. In the meantime, however, Japan came to the front and her rise and progress altered the whole position. It was worth her while for her own sake to withstand the Russian advance first on China and next on Corea, which threatened her own independence; and she was ready and able to do so, with the concurrence and alliance of Great Britain. Events, however, would have been in all probability very different if Great Britain had rushed in at the time China wished to obtain her assistance, to which she certainly had but little claim. Such action might have involved Britain in great difficulties, and whatever the outcome, the gratitude of the Chinese would have been a very poor recompense for the responsibility incurred. It is to be doubted whether the antagonisms which have recently been shown have much to do with the success of Japan in the recent war with Russia. They are but manifestations of the old antagonism of the ignorant classes to foreigners. The better informed among the Chinese are fully aware that any grave anti-foreign movement would involve Japan as well as other nations; and cannot fail to see that any serious anti-foreign action would be likely to lead to hostilities with that country, the result of which, they can hardly doubt, would be adverse to them. China is much more likely to make friends with the only Power who might threaten her integrity. This Japan will not do so long as China maintains reasonable relations with her and also with foreign nations; but if China defy the latter, she will have Japan against her, and the result of any disturbance brought about against any foreign Power would thus in all human probability be to bring things to such a pass that in the end Japan could dictate terms to China as effectually as she might have done after the China-Japan war, had she not been restrained by the influence of some of the European nations. It is not likely that any such intervention would take place a second time.

Singapore it seems is to have two more daily newspapers, making five in all. *Singapore Telegraph* is the name of one which will probably start publication in June. Most of the members of the *Telegraph* syndicate are said to be representative European business men, the only Chinaman having a share in the enterprise being the Hon. Tan Jiak Kim. Another paper is to be started to represent Chinese interests.

THE CHANGING BRITISH TEMPERAMENT.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

An opinion has been expressed from time to time in many different directions that the British public is becoming much more excitable than it was in former times. It was a tradition accepted not only among "Britishers" but also by most of the nations on the Continent that the chief characteristic of the British was level-headedness. Germany, who is not as a rule inclined to be over complimentary to them, has always been willing frankly to acknowledge English common sense; and the French, sometimes perhaps with a slight smile at some eccentric demonstration of the quality, have been equally willing to give due credit to English *sang froid*. It must now be confessed that it is an interesting question how our Continental friends will look upon certain occurrences in connection with the recent General Elections. No one expects things to be over delicate at election times. An election is a fight and cannot be fought in kid gloves. But making every allowance for this, there seems to have been an amount of excitement quite new among Englishmen; and it must also be admitted that the exhibition which has been made has not been exactly edifying; and that it may lead to some serious considerations in the minds of those who are disposed to look a little ahead. When they find that an ex-Prime Minister is absolutely refused a hearing and shouted off the platform, and that the same treatment was meted out to other public men of scarcely less note, people may be excused if they have some slight fear that perhaps after all Sir LEICESTER DEADLOCK'S "flood gates" have been opened. Without being disposed to attach too much importance to what may prove only temporary and transitory, people who have been in the habit of looking upon public matters seriously may see some ground for apprehension in the changes which have taken place. No one wishes to underrate the importance of conducting the government upon the most liberal basis, and there is every reason why the working classes should be fully represented seeing the immense importance they are to the nation and the extent to which its prosperity depends upon them. That they should aspire to direct representation in the House is also only natural and no one of liberal principles will object to their having it. But the history of the election has given prominence to a danger which undoubtedly exists, namely, that of the masses being misled by specious wirepullers, to jump to conclusions upon important matters while perfectly ignorant of the true facts connected with them. The use which has been made at the election of the question of Chinese immigration into the Transvaal is a salient illustration of this; and it will be fortunate if the Government can get out of its hasty pledges on this subject, and stop short of inflicting serious injury to the Empire. The large mass of those who supported the Government in this matter were fully convinced that the system in vogue was one of slavery. This one cry was all sufficient. No pains were taken to ascertain the true facts and anyone who tried to bring them forward was hooted down. This is scarcely the way to treat a serious question upon which the welfare of a most important Colony and of an equally important industry was dependent; and it certainly was entirely contrary to the ordinary sense of justice among Englishmen, which will not admit of a system any more than of a person being condemned

without giving a fair hearing to the other side. The result of this excited action was equally unfortunate in the latter direction and the threats that if Chinese labour were withdrawn, the Transvaal might again seek independence, were absolutely premature and ill-advised; and were likely to work into the hands of those opposed to the immigration. It is on every ground to be much regretted that this question should in any way have been made a party cry at an election, and it is certainly significant of the change which has sprung up in recent times that it was possible to do so. The result of the elections would have probably been strongly in favour of the Liberal party, without lugging this question upon the platform; and the new Government would have commanded the public confidence much more if they had left this matter alone as one outside the range of party politics and election cries. Possibly with calmer counsels the trouble may simmer down, as many difficulties of the kind vanish in an unexpected way as they arise; but still it cannot be denied that the course which has been adopted is one fraught with danger and which it is to be hoped will not be repeated. It will be sad if MAX NORDAU should be able to point to Britons as typical "degenerates," yet that is the fear of thoughtful observers.

THE FLOOD OF FICTION.

(Daily Press, 17th March.)

A circular issued in the Colony this week—by what society it is immaterial to mention—says it is "pitifully sad" to think of the number of people whose mental exercise consists of "merely frittering newspaper and novel reading." By a coincidence, on the same day Mr. H. HURSTHOUSE was lecturing to the Union Church Literary Society on "The Evolution of the Modern Novel." The subject interests and concerns such a wide circle that it is really lifted higher than the level of most of the side issues discussed in the intervals dividing supposedly more momentous happenings. The prevailing comment is that the favourite reading of the modern Briton, as proved by sales and public library statistics, is trashy in the extreme. As usual, there is something to be said on the other side; but our opinion is that the mental pabulum of the average Briton to-day is not only unprofitable but injurious, and that it largely accounts for the degeneracy which we have just noticed as making itself apparent during the general elections, and in other ways to which we have not referred. Unfortunately, the phenomenon appears to be like the earthquake, a disturbing influence which we may study but not cure. The local lecturer made an apt selection in describing the modern novel as a product of evolution. Like Topsy, it has certainly "grewed." Everybody has laughed at the parenthetical remark by the late Mr. GILBERT in that "Bab Ballad" which conveys the pessimistic gush of a sombre young poet, whose refrain of resignation was "Roll on, great world, roll on." As we know, and as the deceased humourist naively commented, "It rolled on." And the literary Juggernaut of Britain rolls on, influencing, despite CHOPENHAUER'S idea of its permanence, the national character. We need only mention one instance as a stimulus to independent consideration of the point. The devourer of fiction prefers stories that "end well," and the satisfactory ending, as we know, must be in the way of poetic justice. The character who enlists his or her sympathies must triumph; all obstacles that prevent the fruition of his

hopes and the granting of his heart's desire are removed by the obliging fiction writer. Thus the wife or husband of the married man or woman who falls in love again is made to die conveniently; or two or three innocent people who stand between the hero and his inheritance are ruthlessly wiped out in a single chapter. Can it be believed that a consistent reader of this sort of thing can avoid wishing that in real life such convenient solutions may occur at times? As a matter of fact, that is what happens, especially in the case of the young and susceptible, and the moral tone is undoubtedly lowered. We have no sympathy with the old Puritan objections to theatre-going and novel reading, but undoubtedly we have been revelling in a surfeit of sentiment, a dehauch of artificially inspired emotions, and the effects are becoming apparent: so apparent indeed as to make some thoughtful men wonder for a moment if the now universal ability to read has been a unmixed blessing. An observer in London, writing from the point of view that it is demand that has created the supply, remarks: "The origin of this demand may be found in the first spread of education. At the time of that movement—resulting in the production of the 'half-educated'—books were very expensive; cheap reprints of standard works were unheard of, free libraries were yet to come. So here was a considerable mass of people able to read, but pecuniarily unable to satisfy their appetites. Enterprising publishers hastened to supply the deficiency. Cheap issues necessitated cheap workmanship, the employment of authorship of a considerably lower grade, and thus the modern ephemeral and sensational novel was started. Once having obtained a hold its growth became prodigious, until to-day it so thickly covers standard works of all classes of literature that ninety per cent. of the reading public never delve beneath it." The only practical suggestions seem to be those of State interference with the supply of fiction by free libraries, making those who want it buy it—a proposal that opens up many thorny points, including the necessarily objectionable censorship; and the better supervision by parents of their children's reading. Unfortunately the modern parent seems to be as great an offender as the child. The free libraries are undoubtedly at the root of the trouble, and it may yet be found that CARNEGIE, instead of being a philanthropist, has, like many other well-meaning people, been doing harm instead of good. The man who said, "let me make the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws," would to-day, without abating the truth of his philosophy, prefer to supply its reading matter.

The system of government at Hongkong has found an American admirer. The *Sunday Sun* says:—The Manila business men should take a hand in the game, and here is our suggestion: Appoint a committee of, say, three members to go to Hongkong and Singapore and collect data as to how John Bull allow the business-man to help in the administration of even his red-tape-confined Crown colonies. There, the chambers of commerce nominate to the Legislative Councils members of their own bodies. Get the facts, and lay them before the President Roosevelt's good sense will prompt him to immediate recognition of the Manila American business-man, if only the facts are brought to his notice. He will never let it be said that more business method characterizes the running of a British Crown colony than is apparent in the management of dollar-and-cents America's faraway islands. If the facts are not secured by the commercial community, they will not be raked up by the government. The reason is, of course, apparent.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this Association was held at the City Hall on March 13. H. E. the Governor was seated on the right hand of Sir H. S. Berkeley, who presided, other members present being—Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Hon. Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, and Messrs. J. C. Gow, A. Mackenzie, W. G. Winterburn and J. Whitall (committee), Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis (hon. sec. and treasurer), Sir Francis Pigott; Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Hon. Captain L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence and Messrs. C. J. Allen, C. E. H. Beavis, A. Blowey, W. D. Braidwood, C. W. T. Brett, W. L. Carter, T. P. Cochrane, A. Denison, W. H. Donald, G. L. Duncan, W. T. Edwards, A. Forbes, H. W. Fraser, W. Goodfellow, A. S. Gubbay, G. K. Haxton, E. A. Hewett, T. F. Hough, J. O. Hughes, W. G. Humphreys, J. Hutchings, A. Jenkins, S. A. Joseph, J. S. Lewington, A. R. Lowe, D. J. Mackenzie, T. H. Martin, J. McCubbin, J. R. Michael, S. H. Michael, P. L. Miller, A. G. Newington, C. Pemberton, J. Pidgeon, L. Plummer, W. Ramsay, A. Seth, M. W. Slade, A. Brooke Smith, E. W. Terrey, D. Tolan, A. Turner, G. H. Wakeman, A. W. J. Watt, A. C. Franklin, J. H. Underwood, Dr. W. W. Pearse, Dr. E. Jones, Major Pritchard and Captain J. Douglas.

The CHAIRMAN—Your Excellency and gentlemen of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association.—It gives us, the committee, great pleasure to see to-day at this, our first annual meeting—the first of a great many yet to come—such a large and representative attendance, and I am sure, gentlemen, we hold your sentiments when I say it gives us all great pleasure to see His Excellency the Governor present (applause). Gentlemen, this is but another mark of that living interest which His Excellency has shown in this Association from its inception. To come to the immediate business that has brought us here together, namely, the reception of the report and the passing of the accounts, I think, seeing that these have been in your hands for some time, that we will follow the ordinary custom in matters of this kind and take them a read. Before proceeding to formally move their adoption I will make a few remarks to you upon matters closely touching the Association in the past year. Not all of us but some of us present remember the birth of the Association. We remember a meeting held at the Legislative Council Chamber at which the Governor presided. The meeting was convened at His Excellency's suggestion on the 29th November, 1904, and at it a resolution was duly carried that an association, to act in co-operation with the defence forces of Hongkong, should be formed, an association apart and separate and distinct in itself, to be called the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association, with certain limits to the right of joining. The result of that meeting was that your present committee was elected, and according to the rules holds office for twelve months. By fluctuation of time we retire, and one of your duties to-day will be to re-elect a fresh committee. I regret very much to say that Mr. Trenchard Davis, for good reasons given the committee, is unable to stand again for the office of secretary and treasurer. The meeting which I referred to resulted in the enrolment of a fair number of members, probably 30 or 40. The matter was then taken up by all who enrolled themselves, and it became the duty of your committee to be actively recruiting; so active did some of them become that they became rather a nuisance. We in the course of our endeavours to get members to join had to stand a certain amount of good-natured banter. I remember on one occasion being asked what sort of uniform we were going to wear and whether we intended to go on parade or active service in frock coats. My answer was that we had not discussed the question of coats, because when the time came to do work we meant to take off our coats to it (laughter). Well, recruiting went on and in a month or so we had risen to about 106 members and by the 25th March numbered 154 (applause). Even if this association did not increase beyond that number it would still be a valuable addition to the defence forces of this country; but it has not stopped there. By the end of May our membership

had reached 171, and members continued to come in until by the end of the year the roll numbered the large sum of 213 (applause). I put it to you that that is a distinctly satisfactory position for an association to have achieved within twelve months. But that, I am glad to say, is not all I can say, because the Association is, as figures show, a distinctly progressive one. There are now over 220 members and this number will increase as time goes on. What is more satisfactory than membership is that this institution can be regarded as a valuable addition to the defence forces of the country. In order to become that it is necessary that it should be effective in shooting, the all-determining factor in any contest in which our country may be engaged. Our members would be greater, much greater, but for what I believe a necessary safeguard in the way of age limit. The age of a member must be 35, unless he can certify that he has served such a time in the regular forces of the King as will justify His Excellency in regarding him as a trained man. A great many have said they would join but for the limitation mentioned, still I am inclined to think it would be wiser to keep the age limit at 35, because every man who has not passed the volunteers and is below 35 owes it as a duty to his country if he can spare the time to join them. But our members need not stay as they are because of this age limit; to my own knowledge there are still several men about 35 who might still join. I believe one thing that keeps them away is being unable to shoot. These are the very men we want, in order to teach them, and I can tell any man who reads in the papers what I say, that without exaggeration we can teach him to shoot. The returns made up by Mr. Davis show astonishing results made by men who have never fired a rifle, so there is no reason for keeping out because a man cannot shoot. Every man should be able to hold a weapon in defence of his hearth and home, and should seize this opportunity and learn (applause). Fifty per cent. of the present members of the Association could not shoot when they joined, but are now quite useful shots: some of them make frequently at the butts 30 out of 35 possible, after twelve months' training (applause). One of these men I saw make nine consecutive bulls' eyes two months ago. I asked him where he shot and he said he had not fired until he came here; so what one man can do another can. We are shooting with effect; we shot about 50,000 rounds within the last twelve months and the average score per member with fourteen rounds for a possible 70 is 41 (applause). I feel again that I can take upon myself to touch your sentiments in another direction. I refer to the grateful acknowledgment which this Association would wish to make to H. E. the Governor, the General, the Commodore and others for the assistance and encouragement which the Association has received at their hands since it started (applause). To mention the military authorities first, we have had in the early life of the Association most interesting and instructive, and most capable lectures and instructions in musketry, and we wish to express to the officers and Sergeant Major Bullock our high appreciation and thanks. There is no use learning how to shoot if you haven't got a range: here again we are indebted to that gallant officer, H. E. the Governor, for giving us the first call upon the King's Park range (applause). The Association is also grateful to the General Officer Commanding for co-operating with His Excellency. The Commodore has given us valuable information in respect of the range and targets, and occasionally afforded us an opportunity for long range firing; I regret he was unable to come here to-day to hear us tender the thanks he deserves at our hands. The Government, eager to give the Association every opportunity of learning to shoot, have given money for the establishment of a range at the Peak. Delay has been caused in its erection, but no one can be actually blamed except the clerk of the weather. The money, which is the principal thing, has been provided, and we have every reason to hope and believe that rapid progress will soon be made. The establishment at the Peak will not at all entail the disestablishment of the King's Park range. His Excellency has just reminded me that the long range at Kowloon,

by consent of the military authorities, is also at the disposal of the Association (applause). H. E. the Governor has presented a handsome cup to the Association to be shot for, which everybody is competing to win. There is also a cup presented by Mr. G. Murray Bain, proprietor of the *China Mail*, the doyen, I might call him, of the Hongkong Press (applause), and an old and esteemed resident of this Colony. He has given not one, but six cups, to be held for the first six months while the Governor's cup is being shot for. I am sure the thanks of the Association are due to Mr. Murray Bain for his generosity. Then a cup has been given by Mr. Bingham, and others by the Association. I desire to remind gentlemen of the Association that a very interesting event is about to occur next week. I refer to the rifle meeting to be held at Stonecutters by the C.U.S.R.A. We intend to compete, and although we shall meet crack shots, I am not without hopes that we shall be able to announce to you that we have won the championship of Hongkong (applause). Cup shooting is all very well, and an excellent thing by way of encouragement, but this Association is not a sporting association; it is a serious one, an association formed for the purpose of taking part in the defence of the country, not the firing off of bullets at targets for the purpose of winning cups. It is to train the manhood of this Colony to shoot with a rifle in order that—should the time unhappily ever come—the Association would be able to take its place in conjunction with the allied forces of the Crown. It is impossible to exaggerate the use of the rifle in defence of the empire. Conscription would be absolutely unnecessary if every boy and man knew how to use a rifle, and could and would on occasion do so. What is wanted in this Empire of ours is for us to attain that superiority with the rifle which our forefathers attained with the bow. It was the archers of England, the famous archers, who at Agincourt and elsewhere brought our arms victory, and it is the rifles that will do so to-day. We give up too much of our time as boys and men at football. I speak not now in words of boast that there are books which might be examined which show that in my day I have helped to victories in football. But it can be carried too far, and much of the time occupied by schools and men could be better employed in perfecting themselves in shooting with the rifle. I believe it is true that the Duke of Wellington said that Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, and so will the Waterloo of the future be won on the rifle range of the public schools at Eton. I shall conclude my remarks to you by offering congratulations on the position of the Association to-day. I think I may say without meditation that our position is assured financially and as to members, and I don't think we need apprehend any loss, but look forward to an increase; I may also congratulate the community on the large and valuable addition to the defence forces of this Colony. Before resuming my seat I desire to express my personal regret and the regret of the Association that it is to lose the services of Mr. Trenchard Davis. It is no figure of speech I make use of when I say that Mr. Davis from its formation has been the heart and soul of the Hongkong Volunteer Reserve Association (prolonged cheering). I formally move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. HEWETT—I beg to move that the following gentlemen be appointed a committee:—Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Hon. Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, and Messrs. W. T. Davis, J. C. Gow, F. Maitland, A. Mackenzie, W. G. Winterburn and J. Whittall. We regret that Mr. Davis cannot offer his services as secretary, but are pleased to find that he is willing to serve on the committee. The success of the Association during the first year speaks far more eloquently than I can in his favour.

Mr. SLADE seconded, and the motion was carried.

Sir FRANCIS PIGGOTT—I think the next step is the proposal of a chairman, and I think, if the Association will agree with me, that Sir Henry Berkeley has shown himself so very apt in teaching the old idea how to shoot that we could not do better than have him as chairman for the ensuing year (applause). I move accordingly.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Speaking for the committee, I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal. Sir Henry was modest enough to suggest the other day that somebody else should take the chair, but I hope he will be re-appointed, and I think that although an infant, the Association which he has spoken so ably about is living a most robust life, but its head nurse should not be changed at the present time.

Sir HENRY BERKELEY—I accept the position with great pleasure—the honourable position of head nurse to this Association.

The CHAIRMAN—I move that Mr. G. H. Wakeman be elected Secretary and Treasurer. He is a methodical man, a Government officer and absolutely reliable, careful and painstaking.

Mr. WHITTALL seconded, and the motion was carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY, who on rising was received with cheers, said—I will ask you to accord a vote of thanks, but before doing so should like to make one remark in addition to the many the chairman has made on the work of the Association. I don't think the highest point is reached by teaching men to shoot at 200 and 500 yards. They should be able to fire up to 1,000 yards at not only fixed but moving targets, and I hope the Association will see its way to give its capable members practice at moveable targets. I will ask you to testify your appreciation of the manner in which the Chairman has conducted this meeting, as you have already testified your appreciation of the manner in which he has conducted the business of the Association (applause).

The CHAIRMAN—I will continue to take the living interest in the Association that I have always taken.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Before breaking up we ought to show our high appreciation of the honour the Governor has done us in coming here to-night. We are going to make a further application upon his generosity. The healthy congestion of the range at Kowloon we know he is going to cure by giving us another range at the Peak. We might also hope he might see his way to give us some ammunition and perhaps a few more rifles, as men who can shoot like to nurse their own and would take every care of them. With such a concession the practice they would get would add to the efficiency of the corps.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Thank you, gentlemen. I will take into consideration the points brought forward.

A vote of thanks to the Press, proposed by Mr. DAVIS was carried by acclamation, and concluded the business.

The report and statement of accounts were as follows:—

The committee have the pleasure to submit to the members a report and statement of the accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

The Association was formed on the 29th November, 1904, at a meeting held in the Legislative Council Chamber, at which His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan presided, when about 50 members were enrolled. On the 31st December, 1905, our members' roll reached 213.

COMMITTEE.—During the year the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., and Messrs. C. W. T. Brett and A. H. Skelton, being about to leave the Colony temporarily, resigned from the committee and their places were filled by the election of Messrs J. Whittall, L. A. M. Johnston, and J. C. Gow.

COMPETITIONS.—The Governor's Cup, kindly presented by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan excited keen competition. It has to be competed for over a period of 12 months when it will be finally held by the competitor who has the best aggregate for six shoots. The monthly holders of the Cup up to the end of December, 1905, were as follows:—

May 1905	C. E. H. Beavis	62 + 8 = 70
June	J. Whittall	63 " 4 = 67
July	J. C. Gow	66 Scr. = 66
August	J. C. Gow	70 Scr. = 70
September	F. Fisher	62 + 4 = 66
November	Sir F. Piggott	65 " 5 = 70
December	J. J. Stubbings	60 " 10 = 70

The proprietor of the *China Mail* kindly presented handsome cups to the holders of the Governor's Cup during the first six months.

THE APRIL CUPS.—Presented by the Association, were won by A. Moir and L. A. M. Johnston, as follows:—

200 yards	A. Moir	58 + 12 = 70
500 yards	L. A. M. Johnston	59 " 11 = 70

THE BINGHAM CUP.—Presented by J. E. Bingham, Esq., on Boxing Bay, was won by J. J. Stubbings, 67 + 3 = 70.

Pool competitions were won by the following:—

May	J. C. Gow	64 + 2 = 66
	A. Mackenzie	62 " 6 = 68
	J. McCubbin	57 " 13 = 70
June	E. W. Dawson	56 " 12 = 68
	F. Maxfield	44 " 24 = 68
July	J. H. Pidgeon	61 Scr. = 61
	J. C. Gow	66 Scr. = 66
August	W. J. Rattey	63 Scr. = 63
	J. C. Gow	67 Scr. = 67
	J. Parkes	66 Scr. = 66
September	F. Fisher	62 + 4 = 66
	J. E. Bingham	38 " 29 = 66
	J. C. Gow	66 Scr. = 66
November	J. S. Lewingdon	56 + 13 = 69
	F. Evan Jones	51 " 17 = 68
	P. L. Miller	54 " 16 = 70
December	W. T. Hoskin	49 " 20 = 69
	G. K. Haxton	48 " 16 = 64
	J. J. Stubbings	61 " 9 = 70
	E. Rogers	52 " 17 = 69
	J. J. Stubbings	60 " 10 = 70

Peak Range.—The money for the construction of the Range at Harlech Road, the Peak, has been provided by the Government, but no progress with the work has yet been possible. Tenders for the construction will be called for shortly.

In accordance with Rule 9 a new committee consisting of a chairman, a secretary and eight other members must be elected at this meeting. Members who have served on the committee during the past year are eligible for re-election, but Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis, who has so ably filled the offices of hon. secretary and treasurer since the formation of the Association, does not, I regret to say, desire re-election.

HENRY S. BERKELEY.

BALANCE SHEET AT THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1905.

INCOME.	
To subscriptions	... .. \$ 980.00
To ammunition a/c. (sale of cartridges)	1,054.85
To entries for "Pool" competitions	144.80
To entries for competitions	113.30
To interest on current account at bank	2.75
	\$2,245.70

EXPENDITURE.	
By markers' wages, and coolie hire	\$ 305.36
By sergeants, instructors, and clerk	261.00
By range upkeep, awnings, etc.	154.27
By printing and stationery	173.79
By postages	32.20
By miscellaneous expenses	18.55
By ammunition a/c. (paid for cartridges)	1,027.62
By "Pool" account (paid to winners)	124.50
By competitions a/c. (paid for prizes)	42.00
By balance—Chartered Bank	\$102.67
Cash in hand	3.74
	106.41

\$2,245.70

THE TAIPO MURDERERS.

ANOTHER TRIERLE EXECUTION.

The three natives, Chan Kam, Wong Shing and Ho Ah-wong who were found guilty and condemned to death for the murder of Tsoi Ming-chang alias Chau Beng-chan, chief excise officer at Taiipo, were executed at Victoria gaol on March 14th.

At the Magistracy in the afternoon, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland sitting as coroner, and Messrs. J. S. Steen, E. G. Barrett and L. M. Alvares, jurors, an inquiry was held touching their death.

E. J. Pierpoint, sworn, said he was Chief Warder of Victoria gaol. The bodies the jury had just viewed were those of Chan Kam, Wong Shing and Ho Ah-wong, who were received into prison on the 20th ultimo under sentence of death, which sentence was duly carried out at 5.5 a.m. that morning. There were present at the execution Mr. R. H. Craig, assistant superintendent of the gaol, Dr. Moore, medical

officer, witness and the usual escort of officers. He produced the Governor's Warrant for the execution.

Dr. Moore testified to being present at the execution. Death in each case, he said, was instantaneous, and on examination he found the cause of death in all three cases due to dislocation of the neck.

The jury returned a verdict of death by hanging in the due course of law.

NAVAL GYMKHANA.

The Naval Gymkhana held on the Polo Ground at Causeway Bay on the 12th inst. was a decided success, and the events of the programme afforded sufficient amusement for the large number present. H.E. the Governor was in attendance, also H.E. Major General Villiers-Hatton and Mrs. Hatton, Sir Gerard and Lady Noel and many other representatives of the services and civilians. Small tables, at which the ladies were regaled with tea and cakes, were arranged on the ground, and the band of the Royal West Kents provided music throughout the afternoon.

The opening event was the Polo Ball race, in which competitors had to hit a polo ball from starting line, down polo ground, through the opposite goal and back through the first goal on starting line. This was won by Major Pedley with Captain Casserley second. In the Bicycle Bending race each competitor was nominated by a lady, and after many of the cyclists had had a fall Mr. Chambers, who was nominated by Mrs. Bailey, was declared the winner. In the Lemon race three chairs were placed a short distance apart with a lemon on each. Competitors galloped past and picked the lemons up. This race was won by Lieutenant Noble. The hat trimming competition proved an amusing event, and the artistic designs of the milliners were much admired. The competitors in this were required to run with a ricsha to their lady nominee who handed them a hat with materials. When they had trimmed same they put it on and ran back to the starting point with the lady in the ricsha. Lieutenant Lloyd Thomas, nominated by Mrs. Aitken, was the winner, with Lieutenant Ruxton, nominated by Mrs. Peters, second. Three teams entered the lists in the tent pegging with swords competition, the champions being the representatives of the Headquarters Staff, who were commanded by Captain Ward. Entries in the animal race were numerous and included goats, pigs, cats, deer etc. A great many of the animals refused to start, but the numerous dogs that were spectators encouraged a number of them, and once the field got properly in motion they set out in all directions to reach the winning post. Miss Bentick was successful in piloting her goat to victory. The umbrella race was a sensational item and called forth twelve starters, many of whom were unseated whilst riding bareback. Lieutenant Buxton passed the winning post first, Captain Josling being a good second. No fewer than 28 competitors lined up in the driving race. Each carried a lady in a ricsha and was blindfolded. He had strings tied to each arm, and with these his nominee drove him. Miss Allway proved most competent with the ribbons, and drove Mr. Pettyman past the winning post first. The concluding event was the nightgown race. In this each competitor rode to a lady, who had a parcel with a nightgown in it. On his arrival she undid the parcel and gave him the nightgown, which he had to put on as he was riding back to the winning post. Lieutenant Buxton was the winner, with Captain Josling second.

At the conclusion of the Gymkhana Lady Noel presented the prizes.

ARRIVAL OF ADMIRAL MOORE.

On March 14 H. M. S. *King Alfred* arrived at Hongkong from Portsmouth, with Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur W. Moore, K. C. B., on board, and was greeted with the customary salute. He took over the command of the China station from Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, and hoisted his flag on the *King Alfred*. Admiral Noel took his departure about the end of the week.

CONCERT AT HONGKONG THEATRE.

The concert which was given at the Theatre on the 10th inst. in aid of the New Organ Fund of the Union Church was one of the most enjoyable that has been given in the Colony for some time. His Excellency the Governor had given his patronage to the concert and occupied his usual seat in the dress circle. Concerts as a rule are not well attended in Hongkong, but this one proved an exception. One price - two dollars—was charged for admission to any part of the house, and only the back rows of the pit remained unoccupied.

The promoters were extremely fortunate in securing the assistance of the excellent band of the German flagship *Fuerst Bismarck*. It is only when this ship and the *Hansa* visit Hongkong that the community is able to enjoy orchestral music which would do credit even to the best concert halls of the European capitals. During the evening the band played the overture to Offenbach's operetta "Orpheus in the Unterwelt," a largo by Handel; the introduction and choros of the *Friedensboten* from the opera *Rienzi* (Wagner); and a fanfare Marche which concluded the programme. The two first-named items especially were exquisitely played and the audience gave unmistakable proof of their appreciation. Each piece was rapturously applauded, but owing to the length of the programme, the band gave only one encore piece, and that a second fanfare Marche at the end. The community will have another opportunity of hearing the band at the Theatre on Tuesday, and no one who enjoys good music can afford to miss the treat they are certain to provide.

Of the other numbers in the programme we may complete first our notice of the instrumental features by mentioning the brilliant violin solos of Mr. J. P. F. Jokl, who played a pretty piece "Humoresque" by Anton Dvorak and Piarce's ever popular Serenade. A perfect master of his instrument, Mr. Jokl played these *morceaux* with a grace and perfection which delighted everyone. Mr. Jokl appeared again with Messrs. Koenig and Gonzales in a trio for violin, viola and violoncello, performing with great success a composition of Mozart's (*Divertimento: adagio and allegro*).

The vocal features of the programme introduced some new talent. Mr. W. E. Leckie, who sang the first song, is an excellent baritone, and his rendering of "The girl of my heart" met with such approbation that an encore had to be given. In this a pretty little Irish love song, he was even more successful, as the singer's nervousness was less marked than was the case in the first song. He was followed on the platform by Miss Humphreys, who in a sweet soprano voice sang a German song ("Allerseelen") with a charm of voice and manner which evoked long-sustained applause. Mrs. D. E. Brown, who made a first appearance before a Hongkong audience, is a decided acquisition to local talent. She sang in the first part a German song "Frühlingzeit" and in the second an English song, "A May Morning," but encores had to be given to each. Mrs. Brown's voice is a rich and powerful soprano, and her songs revealed its splendid compass and purity. The audience was enthusiastic in its welcome, and a floral tribute of appreciation was handed to Mrs. Brown after her first song. Mrs. Gordon, whose appearance on the concert platform is always welcome, sang "Abide with me," to Liddle's setting, with all the feeling and expression necessary to interpret alike the beauty of the music and the sublimity of the verse. It was a greatly appreciated item in the programme, and Mrs. Gordon, being recalled, sang a very pretty little song as an encore. There only remain to be mentioned the songs of Mr. W. M. Stewart. He was down for one, "O pure and tender Star of Eve" (Wagner), but, like the other singers, had to oblige again. Mrs. Kruger was also to have sung at the concert, but it was announced with regret that she was unwell and could not attend. All the accompaniments were excellently played by Mr. George Grimble to whom we presume thanks are principally due for arranging a programme which was greatly enjoyed from beginning to end by the entire audience.

WEDDING AT HONGKONG.

The wedding of Mr. Norman Hubert Rutherford and Miss Margaret Dorothy Wakefield was solemnised at St. John's Cathedral on the 10th instant, the Rev. F. T. Johnson officiating. A large number of friends were present at the Cathedral, which was adorned with palms and ferns. The bride, who was supported by her brother, Captain Wakefield, R.G.A., wore a dress of ivory duchesse satin, trimmed with flounces of twisted chiffon and true lovers' knots tied with orange blossoms. The bodice was trimmed with lace and garlands of orange blossoms and white heather, while a tiara of the same flowers and a tulle veil were worn. She also wore a pretty pearl and ruby pendant, the gift of the bridegroom. Her bridesmaids were the Misses Duffie and Mabel Dickson, Aileen Hastings and Sylvia Ross, all of whom were dressed in white crêpe de Chine trimmed with guipure lace and satin ribbons. They also wore wreaths of pink banksia roses and carried baskets of flowers and wore brooches, the gift of the bridegroom, while Master J. P. Dickson, dressed in Highland costume, acted as page. The bridegroom's best man was Mr. W. K. Robertson. A reception was held in the Hongkong Hotel after the ceremony, and then the happy couple left for their honeymoon.

THE A.D.C.

The next effort of the A.D.C. will be "Lady Huntworth's Experiment," a comedy in three acts. The dates fixed for the production are March 31st, April 2nd and 3rd. The characters have been allotted as under:—

Capt Dovaston	... Lt. Com. Lloyd-
	Thomas
Rev. Audley Pillenger	... Mr. Gaster
Rev. Henry Thoresby	... Mr. L. J. C. Anderson
Gandy	... Mr. Tester
Newspaper Boy	... Mr. Whittamore
Mr. Crayle	... Mr. Looker
Miss Hannah Pillenger	... Mrs. Painter
Keziah	... Mrs. Grace
Caroline Rayward	... Mrs. M. W. Slade

FIRE AT HONGKONG CEMENT WORKS.

A fire broke out in the cooperage of the Green Island Cement Works, Hunghom, at eight o'clock on the 11th inst., whereby damage was wrought to the extent of \$36,000. The Kowloon Dock and Yaumati fire brigades responded promptly to the call, and in conjunction with the Dock's staff and a detachment of men from the U.S. ships *Barry* and *Cullao* exerted themselves to extinguish the flames, a task which was only accomplished after four hours' hard fighting, and not before the cooperage and sawmill were destroyed. These, however, were covered by insurance.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FAMINE FUNDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir—Noting your remarks on the funds started in London and some of the British Colonies for the relief of sufferers by famine in Japan, I wonder why it is we hear nothing of Funds for the relief of distress in the famine districts of the great Asiatic British empire—India—where thousands of people are and have been for months past under State relief?
BRITISHER.

NAVAL NEWS.

The armed shallow-draught steamer *Nightingale*, which has been despatched in sections, from Chatham Dockyard to the China Station is ordered to be commissioned at Shanghai in April for river service in the Far East. A crew for the *Nightingale*, which has been unemployed since she was built on the Thames a few years ago, was ordered to take passage to Shanghai in the armoured cruiser *Donegal* (Capt. W. J. Grogan).

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, March 9th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD. v. P. LEMAIRE AND CO.

This case, in which the plaintiffs claimed from the defendants the sum of \$10,000 on a bill of exchange, again came on for hearing.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton, Hett and Goldring), for the defendants.

The Chief Justice said—We think it must have been apparent to both parties that the Court took a very strong view with regard to the evidence to be derived from the books of the bank and, subject of course to anything Mr. Sharp may have to say, we are strongly of opinion that the case cannot be carried further than the books, and that as there did not show there was any credit given to Edwards, Piry & Co's. liquidators' account when they took the bill and the promissory note, they cannot be held to be holders in due course. We thought it right to let you know at once—we considered the matter yesterday—in order to save both sides enormous trouble and the cost that would be involved in hunting through the books. The only question is that as Mr. Sharp may have a great deal to say in the matter, we want you clearly to realise the view we take—that as the books do not show that the documents, the bill of exchange and the promissory note, were taken and credit given for them, the bank was merely the holder for collection, and not in due course. That seems the only inference to be drawn from *Curry v. Misa* and the *Clydesdale Bank* case; so it now remains for you to decide what steps you would like to take.

Mr. Sharp—I should like to consider your Lordships' observations. I quite apprehend your Lordships' position, and am very much obliged for the intimation. I think if I am able to meet the case it will not be on Mr. Playfair's personal evidence, as his knowledge of the books is not large.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

LEAVE TO APPEAL GRANTED.

In the matter of the claim of To King to land in the New Territories known as claim S. survey district No. 2 and in the matter of the New Territories Land Court Ordinance 1900 and 1904.

Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney General, instructed by Mr. P. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, made application.

The Attorney General—I move for leave to appeal to the full court against so much of a decision or finding of the Land Court as allowed the claim of one To King to waste land within the boundaries mentioned. I move on the grounds that such allowance is erroneous inasmuch as To King did not establish any title to such waste land in the New Territory as against the Crown. The application is made under Ordinance No. 13 of 1903, and your Lordship will observe that by that Ordinance at any time before a title has been granted power is given to the Chief Justice, when proper cause is made out, to grant leave to the Crown to appeal against any judgment of the Land Court delivered either before or after the passing of that Ordinance. The grounds on which I establish cause for your Lordship to make an order are set out in an affidavit by the Crown Solicitor, and the portion which is the subject of my application is what may be described as waste land. The Government has granted a Crown lease for a wide extent of cultivated, orchard land and houses and for a part described as the whole village of Aushwan, but we dispute the right of the claimant to ask for a grant of any portion

of land comprised in what is described as a large strip of foreshore which is not covered by water at high tide, and has not been reclaimed. The first proposition I submit I will be able to establish is that all the land in the New Territories is by virtue of the concession of the Territories and also by virtue of the operation of the Land Court Ordinance of 1900, *prima facie* the property of the Crown, and that any person (a claimant before the Land Court) claiming land in the New Territories is at thrown upon him to establish a claim superior to that which *prima facie* is in the Crown. It is for the Land Court to establish the fact that a claimant is entitled to land within the territories of the King. There have been decisions in this Court to that effect and your Lordship will observe that we are not appealing against the whole decision, but only that portion which allows waste land to the claimant.

His Lordship—Is it your contention that the lease of the New Territories to the Crown of England transfers the rights of the Crown of China to the Crown of England?

The Attorney General—Absolutely, during the term of that convention. The authority for that contention will be Ordinance No. 4 of 1901 section 17. We have it established that all land in the New Territories is the property of the Crown, but in order to prevent misappropriation, the Government must grant to every person who establishes a claim. When the Land Court reports to the Government its finding the Government must give a title appropriate to the claimant. What we say here is that the Land Court have had no right to find this man entitled to receive any title from the Government in respect of waste land. Your Lordship will find from reference that waste land cannot be held in China.

His Lordship granted the application for leave to appeal, on a date to be fixed.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

ADJUDICATED BANKRUPT.

Re the Shum Wo Sang Sang firm, *ex parte* Chan Wing, creditor.

This was a public examination by Mr. G. H. Wakeman, official receiver. Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for petitioning creditor.

Lai Yuk-san said he was a partner in the bankrupt firm of coal merchants. The other was Wong Yu-nam. They started business in January or February of 1904 with a capital of \$4,000, of which witness invested \$2,500. They sold coal to two steam launches, eighteen houses and two establishments at Canton. Witness managed the business and his other partner sat down in the shop.

Mr. Wakeman—Do you mean he did nothing?—Sometimes people brought in money, and he took it.

What did he pay for his share?—\$1,500.

Did he draw any?—No.

Did he receive wages?—Yes, at the rate of \$5 per month.

Did he get the interest on his capital?—There was a loss, and in consequence no interest to receive.

What did you pay your foks?—Some \$5, some \$6 and some \$6.50.

Do you supply them with food?—Yes; also barbers, tobacco, etc.

Then your partner was paid less than the ordinary foks of the shop?—Yes.

Where did you get the \$2,500 to put into the business?—It was my savings.

How much do you spend a year?—About \$250.

How do you account for the business suspending payment?—Owing to bad debts, which we were unable to collect.

The public examination was closed and on the application of Mr. Almada, the debtors adjudicated bankrupt, Mr. Wakeman, official receiver, being appointed trustee.

CONNAUGHT HOUSE FAILS.

Re the Hong Lok Tee Tai (or Connaught House) *ex parte* the debtors.

Another public examination conducted by the Official Receiver. Mr. H. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for the debtors.

Chan Hing-lun said he was one of the partners of the Connaught House Hotel. Altogether there were five with a total capital

of \$7,500. They took over the hotel of Nov' lat, 1904, paying \$7,000 for it. They took over the lease and furniture from Ho Po-fan. Witness acted as steward, and looked after the provisions and servants. He had not drawn anything out of the business. His salary was \$25 per month, and out of that amount he paid \$5 to the godown-keeper. They paid \$1,650 monthly for rent of the hotel. For the first few months the business paid, but between August and September last there was a scarcity of boarders. Some boarders left owing them over \$2,000. Witness had nothing to do with the receipt of monies, but there might have been a disagreement among the partners in connection with this matter.

Li Chun-ng, sworn, said he acted as comprador and took charge of the monies received. There was no dispute between the partners about monies received. If he was absent one of the other partners could receive a payment.

In answer to Hung Mok-hoi, a creditor, he said they owed \$1,600 for house rent and \$30 on account of furniture. He did not know whether they had not paid for provisions supplied for the last four months, and could not state the total amount received, even approximately. The Company paid a solicitor \$100 for representing them in this matter. He did not know that during the last four months they had collected \$15,000 from visitors and boarders.

After another partner had been called the examination was adjourned.

SANITARY MEASURES RESPONSIBLE.

Re Mak Kwai-cheung *ex parte* the debtor.

The Official Receiver conducted this public examination, and Mr. A. J. Gardiner (of Mr. O. D. Thomson's office) represented the debtor.

Mak Kwai-cheung said he was master of the Chinese wine shops known as the Fu Yee and the Sui San Yin. He started the first business thirteen or fourteen years ago with a capital of \$2,000. For a time business was good and he made between \$200 and \$300 a year, which was just sufficient to pay his family expenses. He opened the second shop about two years ago.

How do you account for your failure?—I have had to pay a heavy licence fee, and of late business has been bad.

How is that?—On account of the laws introduced by the Sanitary Board in connection with overcrowding. Previously large numbers of people occupied one flat, but many were forced to get houses of their own. On account of having to pay higher rent their profits were reduced, and as a consequence they have had to refrain from drinking samshu.

The examination was closed and on the application of Mr. Gardiner the debtor adjudicated bankrupt, the official receiver being appointed trustee.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A LKONG SUED.

Wadhama Singh sued Lkong Kwong Tui to recover the sum of \$10, money lent.

Defendant admitted the debt.

His Lordship—Another policeman, but the Captain Superintendent knows about it, I suppose.

Defendant—If I am given a week's time I can pay it all off.

His Lordship—You can arrange that with the plaintiff. I wonder you are not dismissed. It is against the regulations to borrow or lend. There will be judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREAR.

Mr. G. Murray Bain, proprietor of the *China Mail*, sued J. Lockhead, of Quarry Bay, to recover \$57.80, being for subscription to the paper from January, 1904, to August, 1904.

The claim having been proved, his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

AN ANCIENT WARD.

Kalla Sing proceeded against Tim Kam Fuk and Wing Shing to recover \$200 due for money lent.

The second defendant appeared in Court in charge of a Chinese woman, who wished to conduct his case, but on learning that she was not one of the defendants his Lordship ordered her to stand aside.

Wing Shing, sworn, said first defendant had gone to the country. He signed the promissory note produced, as security, but told the plaintiff not to advance the money.

His Lordship—Next time you are about to sign anything you had better take that lady with you; you are too old to conduct your own affairs. Judgment for plaintiff and costs.

DEBT TOO OLD.

Chung Loi sued Hui Lau to recover \$17.43 due for groceries supplied.

Defendant denied liability.

His Lordship (to plaintiff).—Have you any witnesses?—My book is my witness.

Are you a grocer?—Yes.

Did you supply goods to the defendant?—Yes. Why not?

His Lordship—I don't know why not. (To defendant).—What have you got to say?

Defendant said the goods were supplied to his father who died when he (defendant) was six years old.

Plaintiff, on being recalled, said the goods were supplied five years ago.

His Lordship (to the interpreter).—Tell him the bill is too old; he had better sue the father. I expect the defendant told the truth when he says the goods were supplied when he was about six. Tell the plaintiff he had better wipe the amount off the books as a bad debt. The case is dismissed.

Monday, March 12th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE PEAK TRAMWAY LITIGATION.

The hearing of the action at the instance of D. E. Brown and others against the Hongkong High Level Tramway Company and Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son was resumed. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appeared for the plaintiffs. He was instructed by Mr. Geo. Hastings (of the office of Mr. John Hastings) in the interests of plaintiff and by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson on behalf of the other dissentients. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Harston (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding), appeared for the defendants.

Mr. C. Ewens, of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding, solicitors to the defendant company, said he became a member of the consulting committee in 1900, a position which he held continuously since, except for a few months in 1904 when he was absent in England. The line was opened in 1888 and paid, as he subsequently thought improperly, a dividend of 2 per cent. From the time when the first proper dividend of 2 per cent. was paid the dividend steadily increased to 20 per cent. in 1903. In 1904, in view of meeting probable opposition, the dividend was 15 per cent., this being with a view of enabling the Company to accumulate funds. When he returned in 1904 Mr. Smith's Bill had passed its second reading and defendants were opposing the Bill. They were in correspondence with the Government explaining that if the new company were allowed to place their Peak station alongside theirs it would be ruinous. They prayed to be heard by counsel before the Legislative Council. Their attitude of opposition continued until on March 2nd, 1905, they received a letter from the Government to the effect that they would not compel Mr. Smith to adopt a different site for his station at the Peak. He considered that as very important and believed their railway would only be worth scrap iron. They considered several schemes for meeting the opposition. One was to close the old line after the new one had been completed and run it only for goods, but it was doubtful whether that would pay working expenses. The next suggestion was to stop dividends and build up funds to fight the new company by running their cars free. The third plan was to come to terms with Mr. Findlay Smith and either prevent the new tramway being made or make it themselves. There were two ways in which this might be done. One was to acquire the concession and build the line themselves, or to sell out to a new company who would find fresh capital and run both lines. This was re-construction.

In considering these schemes, they had to put forward a scheme which while acceptable to the shareholders of the old company would also be acceptable to Mr. Smith, and last of all to the Government, whose decision would really govern the whole matter. They then communicated with the Government on 15th April, stating that the scheme would likely be advantageous to all.

Mr. Sharp—What did you consider would be the effect of the new company on your company?—I am very doubtful if it would then pay its expenses. When you consider the present line the great majority of passengers are military who travel at half price, and the new line would be a larger line, having double cars of a larger make and more frequent starting, so that it would be most difficult, or almost impossible to work at a profit. It would only leave us Barker Road and the military to cater for, and we might retain them as in those cases alone our line would be convenient. The new line was to run through Caine Road, Robinson Road and Queen's Gardens—a very populous district. The working on those levels would yield them a very good profit, and hardly any company would risk such an opposition if there was any possibility of coming to terms. These points were then considered by the consulting committee, who held 932 shares out of a total of 1,250. After consideration, the consulting committee came to the conclusion that the best way to meet the difficulty was to re-construct, or to sell the old undertaking to the new company.

With regard to the price you considered proper?—We gave very great consideration to the price.

Mr. Pollock—I don't suppose your Lordship goes into price as an arbitrator. We have not gone into any price.

His Lordship—No, no.

Mr. Sharp—I think a little is essential in considering the *bona fides* of the whole thing. The *bona fides* is a very important factor.

His Lordship—That might be assumed.

Mr. Sharp—I will only ask one question. I quite understand my friend's position. (To witness).—You considered the question of price?—Yes.

On what grounds was your decision based—broadly?—There had been a sale before and having regard to the fact that our shares would depreciate below par if there was any opposition, the consulting committee considered that \$200 was the best price we could get.

And you took steps to carry that into operation?—Yes, we communicated with the Government and instructed Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts to negotiate for the sale of the shares.

Was the circumstance of this combination kept secret or was it generally known?—Directly we had completed the agreement we made it known as widely as possible. I think on 12th May Mr. Findlay Smith notified Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts his acceptance of Mr. Kadoorie's offer of \$25,000.

On the same day you informed Mr. Smith's solicitor that the actual purchasers were the China Commercial Company, Ltd.?—Yes.

You drafted the resolutions and the notice convening the first meeting?—Yes.

And the circular letter?—Yes.

The word re-construction occurs in that letter four times?—Yes.

What is the meaning of the word "re-construction" as understood by ordinary business men?

Mr. Pollock objected.

His Lordship said he did not object to hearing Mr. Ewens' opinion.

Mr. Sharp—What is your definition?—It is the sale by a company of all its undertaking to a new company (which may or may not have another undertaking).

His Lordship—You say the acceptance of shares by the new company is not an essential agreement?—No, my Lord.

His Lordship—The sale of the undertaking is not the point?—Yes.

Not the shares?—Not necessarily.

It does not convey anything to my mind except as a sale. How do you differentiate between a sale and a re-construction?—If the new company carries on the undertaking I should say then it is construction.

That is a new company?—Yes.

There is no re-construction unless the shareholders participate in the management of the new one?—No.

Witness—Shareholders should possibly have some means of taking shares.

Mr. Sharp—They always have.

His Lordship—You think a re-construction should begin with a compulsory sale of old shares?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—You think it can be called a re-construction if there is a compulsory sale of shareholders' shares?

Witness—I think it would be re-construction in that sense.

Mr. Sharp—I shall submit later there is no difference between selling for a lump sum and so much per share. Continuing, he referred to the communication from the Government and said there had been no actual consent given.

His Lordship—Quite so. Councils may change and Governments may change.

Mr. Sharp—I wish it clearly to be understood that we don't suggest that approval has been given.

His Lordship—Or that it must be given?

Mr. Sharp—The attitude of the Government has been such that we may reasonably expect that approval. The agreements we entered into are executory and they are good until that approval is refused.

Mr. Sharp—About the price again. Do you consider that a higher price could possibly have been obtained from any company?

Witness—No.

A company could not have been formed if the price were higher?—That is so.

That is your opinion?—It is the opinion of the consulting committee.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pollock, witness stated that he held about a one-tenth share of the China Commercial Company, the capital of which was three and a half millions. Mr. Kadoorie, of Benjamin, Kelly and Potts, was the largest shareholder, holding about one-third. There were many other shareholders, but Mr. Henry Humphreys was not one of them so far as he remembered. That company was brought in, as the consulting committee did not wish to bring in the old company because they thought Mr. Findlay Smith would not sell the concession to the old company. He understood that the Governor in Council had approved the scheme prior to October, and for that reason the third meeting was held back. There were important alterations made in the Bill which he took it would not have been made unless such sanction was either given or contemplated.

Mr. Pollock—You said in your examination that the Government threatened to close the Barker Road Station. Did the Government actually threaten to do that?—Yes, unless we practically re-built it.

Suppose the new line were built from Battery Path to Victoria Gap, and only worked up to Queen's Gardens level, would it pay you to run the old line carrying goods and such passengers free as you have room for?—That is impossible to say definitely, but if they worked the upper part it would pay handsomely.

Witness stated that the extension of the old line to Queen's Road would cost about \$70,000 or \$80,000 but the engineering difficulties made that scheme impracticable.

His Lordship—Was any prospectus of the new company issued?

Witness—No.

Mr. Sharp—Was the old company at any time under any obligation to Mr. Kadoorie, or Mr. Smith, or anybody else to purchase this concession?—No.

Who were the promoters of the new company?—The old company.

I understood you to say that the extension to Queen's Road scheme was abandoned?—Yes, we saw no possible way of overcoming the difficulties.

His Lordship—Before you begin to argue, I should tell you what is in my mind. The first point is that a compulsory sale of shares in this case is inconsistent with re-construction, and that I should be disposed to hold in the same way as Mr. Chitty did in the Western Telephone Company that the substance of this transaction between the two companies was a sale and not re-construction.

Mr. Sharp—That is very much what we have pressed upon your Lordship.

His Lordship—Yes. And further, after carefully reviewing all the authorities cited, section 161 is the legal machinery provided for re-construction and that the shareholders cannot be deprived of it. I don't know what effect these will have, but these are the points in my mind. There is a further point that the option of re-investing the sale price of the shares, that is \$200 per share, differs only imperceptibly from the option of buying the remaining shares of the new company. Again, there is another point on which I am not clear—Why are not the shareholders entitled to the same full particulars and notice of contract as they would be entitled if the prospectus of the new company had been issued?

Mr. Slade, addressing the Court, submitted that the plaintiff had failed to prove any single one of the allegations in the statement of claim which defendants denied. It was perfectly clear that the old company was not under obligation to pay \$25,000 to Mr. Findlay Smith or anybody else. Neither were the resolutions *ultra vires*. He contended that the notice was valid because it contained the required statement of business to be transacted, and actually gave the words of the resolution to be proposed. The circular, which accompanied the notice, gave a sketch of the proceedings and certainly was not of a deceptive nature. Any business man reading the notice would understand that the company was to cease to exist and a new company was to be formed to carry on the same business. In other words, it was re-construction. The sole practical question which the shareholders had to decide at that meeting was whether or not the price offered was adequate; the other resolutions were machinery for carrying it out. Taking the resolutions as they stood there could not be any doubt as to what it was proposed should be done at that meeting. Dealing at length with the question of the general managers' power to sell the property of the company, he asserted that the company could not sell the individual shares but only the corporate property. They had sold it for a price which worked out at \$200 per share.

The hearing was again adjourned.

Tuesday, March 13th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE PEAK TRAMWAY LITIGATION.

The hearing of the action at the instance of D. E. Brown and others against the Hongkong High Level Tramway Company and Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son was resumed. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appeared for the plaintiffs. He was instructed by Mr. Geo. Hasting (of the office of Mr. John Hastings) in the interests of plaintiff and by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson on behalf of the other dissentients. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Harston (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston, and Harding), appeared for the defendants.

His Lordship at the outset said there was one point which wanted unravelling. The argument had been that it was not a re-construction, but a sale—rather that it began with an absolute sale.

Mr. Sharp—No, my Lord. I must ask your Lordship to stop there. It is an absolute sale. I am not prepared to admit that a sale cannot be described as a re-construction. If your Lordship limits the restriction to that in the Home Act then it is by no means re-construction. The proper legal word is sale, but I cannot help thinking it is with propriety described as even amalgamation or re-construction.

His Lordship—Why I asked the question was this. When Mr. Ewens was in the box you rather emphasised his view of the word re-construction.

Mr. Sharp—As Mr. Ewens was the draughtsman who used the word I think it perfectly right that he should give his meaning of it.

Mr. Slade then stated that before his Lordship had come into Court both sides had come to the conclusion that certain scraps of evidence should be before the Court, and they had agreed, with his Lordship's permission, to put them in by consent. The other side put in a statement

showing the details of receipts, profits, expenses, distribution, etc., of the old company for the years from 1900 to 1904, while they (plaintiffs) wished to put in a statement showing that at the first meeting there were seven dissentients holding 271 shares and at the second meeting there were five dissentients holding 196 shares. The plaintiff on 16th May, 1905, became registered in respect of 50 shares. Mr. Goddard was registered in respect of 25 shares. Mr. Moir, who held one share on 16th April, had 50 on 16th May. Mr. Cameron had 25 on the 16th May, and Mr. Ram had 45 shares on the 25th May, 1905.

A discussion ensued as to the extent to which negotiations had proceeded between the Government and the new company. Mr. Pollock said the defendants suggested they had the approval of the Government, but Mr. Sharp disclaimed any such idea, and it was decided to note that no statement would be made as to how far the negotiations had gone.

Mr. Slade (resuming)—We will give an undertaking not to transfer the property to the new company until the approval of the Government in Council has been obtained.

His Lordship—But you could not (laughter).

Mr. Sharp—We know we can't, but we are prepared to give the undertaking.

Mr. Slade—I would call your Lordship's attention to the offer we made in the very beginning of the case, namely, to arbitrate the value of the plaintiffs' shares.

His Lordship—Yes, I should like you to deal with that point.

Mr. Slade—We offered to arbitrate the value of the plaintiff's shares, and we repeat that offer now. We are willing now to arbitrate, as a matter of right.

His Lordship—You deny the right?

Mr. Pollock—And allow it?

Mr. Slade—We deny the right.

His Lordship—But you are fighting the right.

Mr. Slade—Yes. All substantial relief on that point they could have had for the asking.

Mr. Slade then dealt with the points raised by his Lordship. With regard to the first that that was a compulsory sale of shares for cash which was inconsistent with a re-construction scheme, he would submit that that was not a sale of shares, because the sale of shares would mean the existence of two companies side by side. That was not so in the present case. What was sold was not the interests of the shareholders in the property but the property itself. Those were very different things.

His Lordship—But you have called it a re-construction scheme.

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship—You emphatically dealt with it in the circular as a re-construction scheme. The question to my mind is whether these resolutions, although they seemed to be resolutions for a sale, are not so affected by the notice as to make it really a re-construction.

Mr. Slade—It comes to this that if a company set about to carry through a scheme which they described as a re-construction scheme and they carry it through in a way which does not require them to have recourse to section 161, yet because they have described it as a re-construction scheme the remedies given to proceedings under section 161 will apply to this re-construction which is not carried through under that section.

His Lordship—You can put it in that way.

Mr. Slade argued that the word re-construction had no fixed technical meaning. What they called the transaction was immaterial provided it was a valid transaction.

His Lordship—I am not quite sure that the name is so immaterial as you make out. Assuming the shareholder knows the company law he goes to the meeting with this in his mind that this is a re-construction. He knows he has his remedy and he conducts himself accordingly. Afterwards he finds that it is not a re-construction scheme, but sale.

Mr. Slade—I don't say it is not a re-construction.

His Lordship—The whole thing is based on that. If this is a re-construction scheme the shareholders can not be ousted from their rights under section 161.

Mr. Slade—It is not a re-construction scheme. The shareholder is told the machinery by which the re-construction scheme will be carried out. We presume he knows the terms of the section and that he knows the laws and the reasons

why it was passed, namely, for the purpose of protecting the shareholders from being obliged to take out shares compulsorily.

Counsel, after quoting authorities, pointed out that they did not ask the shareholders to accept shares, and therefore the section could not apply here.

His Lordship interpolated that shareholders could not be imputed with knowledge of their own articles.

Mr. Slade said that at a meeting it was quite sufficient to indicate what they were doing without referring to the articles. There was no analogy between the two cases. A prospectus contemplated the purchase of shares on the basis of the information supplied in the prospectus. The notice and circular did not contemplate that shares would be taken on the basis of the information supplied.

His Lordship—But there is no information in the notice and circular.

Mr. Slade—Why should there be?

His Lordship—There is nothing here except \$750,000 capital, of which the shareholder knows that \$250,000 will go in the purchase of the existing company.

Mr. Slade—What do they want more for the purpose of deciding whether the price per share was adequate?

His Lordship—Supposing you were proceeding as a new company, you will admit that fuller information was necessary.

Mr. Slade—Only if the statute imposes the obligation.

His Lordship—The statute does.

Mr. Slade—On a prospectus but not a notice.

His Lordship—Putting all facts on one side. Persons are invited to invest \$250,000 which they are going to receive in a new company. They are also told they have the option of taking up shares. They are not told of the construction of the new company.

Mr. Slade—They are not invited then and there to take up shares on the basis of these documents at all, but they are invited to decide whether \$200 was an adequate price for their shares.

His Lordship—The two things go together.

Mr. Slade—The man does not decide whether he will take up shares, but whether he will take \$200 for his share or not.

After a brief

Mr. Slade submitted that the essential difference between a notice convening a meeting and a prospectus was that the notice need only set out in general terms the object of the meeting sufficiently fully to cause the shareholders who were interested to attend the meeting, whereas the prospectus must set out all the details on which the recipient was to act. He asserted that the plaintiff could not succeed because of the insufficiency of the notice, and if he did succeed all to which he was entitled was that whatever had been done irregularly should be set right, that after his right had been secured he was not entitled to throw everything into confusion. He was not entitled to obtain the desired price for his shares by threats. He was entitled to arbitration, but the present plaintiff declined arbitration and decided to create confusion. That the dissentients were a small minority was seen by the fact that out of 1,350 shares 1,155 were present.

His Lordship—How many shareholders are there?

Mr. Slade—I cannot say.

His Lordship—One person may hold a number of shares. The number of dissentients at the first meeting was seven. That may bear a reasonable proportion to the number of shareholders.

Mr. Slade, in conclusion, said that whatever his Lordship's decision he thought he would be certain that there had been nothing approaching fraud or wilful suppression of facts. What had been done was nothing more than an irregularity which could be set right at any moment by the company. The proper form which the interlocutory injunction made by his Lordship should have taken was that the company should have been restrained from carrying out the resolutions until a proper meeting had been called.

His Lordship—It strikes me on reading the cases that the judges always assumed that a meeting properly called subsequently would ratify the first meeting.

Mr. Slade—They asked for a wider injunction than they were entitled to. They have embarrassed the company in a most improper way. They had no right to come *ex parte* and ask your Lordship to grant such an injunction. We did not come into court then because we desired to have their points in black and white. The result of the plaintiff's action was to embarrass the company very improperly for several months. The action taken by the plaintiff shows clearly that his injunction was to do as much damage as he could in the hope of being bought out.

His Lordship—Would the injunction prevent another meeting being held?

Mr. Slade—Yes. They have prevented us from doing anything.

Mr. Pollock—No.

Mr. Slade—We have been disobeying the injunction by carrying on the tramway at all. Continuing, he said—If you find that we have done wrong you should merely ask us to give an undertaking not to proceed with the resolution as to the sale until another meeting had been called and the matter either approved or disapproved by the shareholders. In view of the overwhelming majority held by those who assented to this scheme, there would not be the slightest difficulty in carrying it out. Any interference of the Court would put the company to a great deal of expense without any benefit to the plaintiff, who can always get the amount for his shares decided by arbitration. I would, in conclusion, ask your Lordship to dismiss the action.

Mr. Pollock addressed the court. He asserted that the points he made out in opening had been untouched practically by his learned friends. Nobody intended that the company should be wound up because it was desirable that it should be wound up. The only object of the scheme was with a view to re-construction. If the hopes that there would have been no opposition had been fulfilled, there would have been no occasion for winding up the company. Under the resolution passed it was beyond the power of the liquidators to say whether shareholders should take cash or shares. It was at the option of the shareholders themselves. After dwelling on the definitions of re-construction and amalgamation, he affirmed that this was not a sale involving their having nothing further to do with the tramway company, but it was a re-construction. They were told that there was a chance of acquiring a new concession which would benefit the shareholders, and they were told it would be to their advantage that the old company should change its name and work the tramway. Neither could it be considered a sale by the liquidator in liquidation. Did anyone believe that if the tramway were advertised for sale, it would not bring a greater sum than that offered? The price of the shares was fixed by the majority, and it was wholly inadequate in view of the figures put before his Lordship.

The hearing was again adjourned.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA V. P. LEMAIRE AND CO.

The further hearing of the claim by the National Bank of China against P. Lemaire and Co. was resumed, this being a special sitting for a continuation of evidence by Mr. Playfair, Mr. H. E. Sharp K. C., instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Bruton, Hett and Goldring), represented the defendants.

Mr. G. W. F. Playfair was further examined *de bene esse*. He said the entry of Lemaire's bill in the book was perfectly correct and justified because it was only in that book that securities, promissory notes, etc., which were held by the Bank and belonged to the bank were entered. There was another book in which were entered the securities belonging to constituents called the Register of Custody Receipts Issued. In the first book were entered the documents in respect of claims, such as mortgages or charges of various kinds, but always documents the bank was holding for itself; and in the other book were entered documents, boxes, etc., which the bank held on behalf of other people.

His Lordship—Then a bill which is taken by the Bank in renewal of another bill should be entered too surely, or else there is no record of that document.

Witness—It is pinned to the other and put in the same box.

His Lordship—But the record in the books then would be incomplete.

Witness—We will be able to call the accountant, who was accountant at the time.

Mr. Sharp—It is regarded as one thing being together, and one entry would suffice.

Re-examined by Mr. Slade—Did you from time to time make out statements of Edwards, Piry and Co.'s position and forward them to Edwards, Piry & Co.?—I think you had better wait until the accountant is examined.

No, Mr. Playfair, we want it from you?—If you ask me regarding any particular one I will tell you.

Is that statement (shown statement) yours?—Yes, I initialed it myself. Where did you get it?

Mr. Slade—I got it from Lowe and Bingham, accountants. Can you tell me why, under the circumstances, if you had received this bill of exchange that you have called a promissory note in your Custody Book in settlement of this same acceptance, you did not enter it there. (Quotes first line of statement)?—Well, it was known to the Bank that we had it, so there was no occasion to do that.

Mr. Sharp—It was not money.

Mr. Slade—No more were the promissory notes money.

Witness—What were known as Plant's bills were known to us.

Mr. Slade—Can you produce press copies of subsequent statements? They were copied, were they not?—Judging from this one, it has not been copied at all. It is an original and has my initials in pencil.

You have a book containing press copies of these statements?—That is a matter for the accountant.

Mr. Slade—Now you caused an action to be commenced against Plant for the amount of the calls due by him to the firm of Edwards, Piry and Co.?—I had an action? No.

But you caused an action against Plant?—I had nothing to do with it.

You had nothing to do with these actions brought for the collecting of calls from Edwards, Piry and Co.?—I authorised no action.

And say you had nothing to do with them?—I authorised no action. I don't even remember about any action. I know there were calls due.

Did you tell Wilkinson and Grist you had an action started?—Wilkinson and Grist were not my solicitors.

You were guaranteeing them; they were Edwards, Piry & Co.'s solicitors.—I was only guaranteeing because it was for the collection of outstanding debts.

But they were going to collect money on calls?—There was nothing authorised by me. Now you can take my word for that. I had nothing to do with their quarrels.

You knew nothing about an action?—I knew something about it, but you are not to put into my mouth what I don't say. I knew something about it and that is all I intend to tell you.

I want you to be perfectly straightforward?—You are trying to make me say what I will not say.

I understand you will not say a good many things?—I have sworn to say the truth, and nothing but the truth, and nothing will I say but the truth.

Is it true that you knew something about the actions?—I don't say anything about the actions. I knew share calls were due.

His Lordship—I thought you said you knew something of what was going on?—Witness: I knew something was going on, but I was not at all mixing myself up with that.

Mr. Slade—You knew something was going on in respect of shares of Edwards, Piry and Co.?—Yes, I knew that.

Did you know that actions had been commenced against Edwards, Piry and Co.'s shareholders who had not paid calls?—No, that is the first statement I have heard of that.

I put it to you, Mr. Playfair, that the total amount due by Plant was \$15,000, against which he claimed to be entitled to deduct \$5,400 in respect of salary due to him as manager of Edwards, Piry and Co., leaving a balance of

\$9,600, and that he gave you a draft for that amount?—He gave me a bill on his own firm for that amount, I know.

Was that amount made up in the way I have indicated to you?—I don't remember anything of the details.

Don't you remember the fact that that was calls?—Most probably, but I don't remember it.

Let me remind you, Mr. Playfair. Here is a letter which was forwarded to you by a London manager from Showell and Co., dated the 16th of March, 1904.

Witness, having read the letter, said:—That is so. He paid half the bill of \$9,000. According to that statement it was for the shares.

Mr. Slade—Now, you are reminded by that that it was so.—That was so, but I don't like to say a thing I don't remember.

Witness said Mr. Bingham, as attorney for Plant, drew a cheque on the National Bank of China in favour of the Guarantee Trust Co. of New York, and that cheque witness refused to honour. The Guarantee Trust Co. was the bank to which Joseph Showell and Co. transferred their bills in London.

Re-examined by Mr. Sharp—Mr. Bingham was the attorney of Plant as liquidator of Edwards, Piry and Co. when Plant went away. Plant left the Colony on the 2th of March, but he was in Hongkong again—passing through on the 9th of April. It was at Plant's request that the documents and bills of lading were handed over to him as manager and liquidator of Edwards, Piry and Co. He had powers under the articles of association of that company, and the only occasion on which witness ever dealt with him in any other capacity than manager and liquidator of Edwards, Piry and Co. was on the occasion that Plant came to him as from Mr. Lemaire, when he wanted the bill of exchange for \$10,000 renewed.

By His Lordship—As manager of the bank all questions of credit and all bills of exchange and promissory notes that were to be dealt with were decided by him (witness) as manager of the bank alone, the details being left to the accountant in the outside office. As to whether a bill of exchange was to be held, that was entirely his own responsibility.

The examination was then closed.

Wednesday, March 14th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE PEAK TRAMWAY LITIGATION.

The hearing of the action at the instance of D. E. Brown and others against the Hongkong High Level Tramway Company and Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son was resumed. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appeared for the plaintiffs. He was instructed by Mr. Geo. Hastings (of the office of Mr. John Hastings) in the interests of plaintiff and by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson on behalf of the other dissentients. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Harston (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston, and Harding), appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Pollock resumed his reply.

His Lordship—You say that the form of injunction which was granted was right?

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

His Lordship—In that course it would follow that the liquidation should not have continued. Therefore the receipts which have been issued by the liquidators are practically wrong?

Mr. Pollock—It may be wrong. Of course it does not make any practical difference. Messrs. Humphreys and Sons, who were the liquidators appointed by the resolution, which may or may be valid, were the general managers of the old company.

His Lordship—Strictly speaking, the company should revert to its normal position.

Mr. Pollock—Yes technically so.

His Lordship—That would be the result?

Mr. Pollock—Undoubtedly.

Mr. Sharp—I think, my Lord, if that point arises, that could only result if the resolutions be set aside. You are asked to set them aside.

His Lordship—No, no; that is the result of the injunction.

Mr. Sharp—What arises is this. Here are certain resolutions which may be held to be

valid or invalid. We are not to do anything under them. They are in force, but we must not do anything under them. Later, if the Court is satisfied they are invalid, then the Court sets them aside.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—Then the people affected by them are thrown back into their original position. Meanwhile the resolutions are in force but must not be acted upon.

Mr. Pollock—I don't think there is any real difference whether you say they are in force or not.

His Lordship—But the form of the injunction has been challenged.

Mr. Pollock—We submit that the injunction was properly granted as regards all four resolutions.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—The order of the Court is the ordinary form of injunction.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—I would ask your Lordship to refer to page seven of Buckley, which does not conflict with the principle I have laid down.

Mr. Pollock, continuing his argument, affirmed that when a new company was formed to take over an old company and carry on its undertaking that was a re-construction, and as his Lordship had pointed out yesterday a compulsory sale of shares for cash was not a re-construction scheme. It seemed to him that if the arguments of his learned friends were followed to their logical conclusion it would mean that by passing a resolution of winding up—which could be done whether the articles provided for it or not—the shareholders in the minority could be deprived of their rights under section 201 of the ordinance by the majority. The machinery which had been adopted in the present case was altogether inconsistent with any plea, put forward at the eleventh hour, that they were empowered to do this under the memorandum. It was clear from Mr. Ewens' evidence that the memorandum did not give them that power. Referring to the letter "intended as an offer of arbitration," he said that no one would take that as an offer of arbitration, and pointed out that defendants had always denied the right to arbitration. On the subject of the notice, he contended that it was inadequate. The shareholders inasmuch as they were invited to the meeting ought to have had sufficient information to determine whether it was wise to sell their shares at \$200, to decide whether it was advisable to become investors in the new company, or to decide whether they would do neither the one nor the other but oppose the scheme. He further argued that rights conferred by statute on shareholders could not be contracted out of. As to the statement that plaintiff acquiesced in the proceedings, there was no evidence to support that. The correspondence proved an intention to contest the validity of the resolution, but in face of those letters the general managers decided to call the new company into existence and hurry through all manner of agreements. He submitted that what was done was *ultra vires* of the company, because these resolutions perpetrated to give the liquidators authority to sell to a new company when such sale would have been contrary to the statute without the consent of the Governor in Council being first obtained. All the resolutions ought to have been passed subject to the approval of the Governor in Council. They could not possibly take effect without that consent. Supposing that consent were refused and the injunction dissolved, the new company could not admit the old company because they were still carrying on their business. An impossible situation would be created. The old company would go in liquidation for all time or until the tramway line were out. The new company could not carry on without obtaining the concession from the old company.

Mr. Sharp thought the new company could carry out one of its objects, one of the lines.

Mr. Pollock denied this. He submitted that nothing of those resolutions could go through without first obtaining the consent of the Governor in Council.

His Lordship—You claim first for a declaration that the resolutions are *ultra vires* and void and therefore an injunction to restrain defendants from carrying them into effect?

Mr. Pollock—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—Well, as I have said two or three times before, I should think an injunction might be necessary to restrain defendants from carrying the resolutions into effect until the consent of the Governor was obtained.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—But then supposing the injunction were granted.

Mr. Pollock—What would be the effect?

His Lordship—That is what I am coming to. What would be the effect say as regards your alternative claim?

Mr. Pollock—How can the question of arbitration possibly be gone into until it is known whether the consent of the Governor in Council be given?

His Lordship—You would require judgment on the alternative as a substantive claim and not as an alternative claim.

Mr. Pollock—There is a difficulty, my Lord. The only way in which it can be got over is to grant us an injunction.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—The matter is in an impossible position until we know where we are—until we know whether the Governor in Council will give his consent.

His Lordship—Supposing a proper injunction be granted say until the consent of the Governor in Council were obtained?

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

His Lordship—In that case you would still want your declaration?

Mr. Pollock—Oh yes.

His Lordship—That is hardly an alternative claim.

Mr. Pollock—We are asking for an injunction to stop the whole thing.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—We say we are entitled to an absolute injunction restraining them from carrying the resolutions into effect.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—We say these resolutions were contrary to law because they purported to contain a power of sale that lacked a material precedent.

His Lordship—Yes. The absence of notice does not make them *ultra vires*.

Mr. Pollock—It makes an irregularity.

His Lordship—It may give your plaintiff a right to the declaration?

Mr. Pollock—Yes. He would certainly have a right to the declaration that they were invalid. His Lordship—An injunction to set aside would not meet the case.

Mr. Pollock—We think we are absolutely entitled to the declaration that they are both invalid and illegal, in the sense that they were contrary to statute.

His Lordship—Do you say that absence of notice makes that *ultra vires*?

Mr. Pollock—Being unable to carry out the resolutions without the consent of the Governor in Council makes them *ultra vires*.

His Lordship—Supposing the injunction were granted, the alternative question as to arbitration under section 201 would not be decided but would have to be discussed again?

Mr. Pollock—It has been pretty fully discussed now, but it would certainly have to be gone into again.

His Lordship—Yes.

Mr. Pollock—That is why my Lord we have framed it in the alternative because it seemed to us if the injunction were granted that meant everybody's shares would revert to them. Supposing your Lordship says the resolutions passed are *ultra vires* then there is nothing to arbitrate.

His Lordship—Yes. Supposing the injunction were until a decision was arrived, until the Governor in Council gave or refused his consent, then the question of arbitration would crop up again?

Mr. Pollock—Not now, we think it would depend upon whether the consent was given or not.

His Lordship—Assuming it were given, the whole of this question would have to be opened again.

Mr. Pollock—I don't know. Not necessarily, my Lord.

His Lordship—They have the same right to interfere.

Mr. Pollock—Your Lordship has to decide whether the resolutions were valid or not and whether they were *ultra vires*. Assuming, the

consent of the Governor in Council was now given, that could not cure the fact that the resolutions were *ultra vires*, nor could it cure the fact that the agreements framed upon these resolutions were *ultra vires*.

His Lordship—Everything falls to the ground.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, of necessity. The proper procedure, we submit to your Lordship, is that an absolute injunction should be granted, and the other side, if they get the consent, can bring up another resolution in a regular manner.

His Lordship—Supposing the consent of the Governor in Council was refused what would be the position?

Mr. Pollock—It would be an impossible position.

His Lordship—Supposing the consent were now given would not that cure it?

Mr. Pollock—No. It would not cure *ultra vires*. They have entered into all manner of agreements with the new company. How can that possibly cure it?

His Lordship—Everything would have to be done over again.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, and very rightly so, because the position of the dissentients and other shareholders in the company would be very much altered by the question whether the consent of the Governor in Council was granted or not. If the consent be withheld, if your Lordship grant an injunction in the form suggested, it seems to me an impossible position will be created. If on the other hand the consent of the Governor in Council is obtained, then we say that that will have a very important bearing upon this question of arbitration, because it will have a most important bearing upon the question of the price which ought to be paid to the dissentients. The whole object of the scheme was to do away with opposition. Your Lordship will bear in mind that it was declared that handsome profits could be obtained merely by building the new concession up to Queen's Gardens level and working that part alone. If the Governor in Council does give his consent to the transfer of the tramway, it is hardly likely the general managers will take the line up to the Peak in the face of their letters and correspondence. In conclusion, he argued that it would be absurd to wind up the old company for the purpose of transferring the undertaking to the new company when they had not obtained the necessary legal consent. It might be that the Government would come to the conclusion that it was not in the public interest to have the two tramways controlled by one body. The Government might decide that it was better to have competition. It certainly could not be said that there was a certainty of the Government assenting to the transfer, and the general managers had altogether been too premature in bringing the matter before the shareholders. There was no doubt that these shares had been unduly depressed, and having regard to the dividend earning power of the old company the shares were worth \$325 each. If the new line were taken to some other part of the Peak the present company would be as flourishing as ever. Therefore, they submitted that the only proper order the Court could make was that the resolutions were invalid and that an injunction ought to be granted.

Mr. Sharp said his Lordship had asked a question the previous day which he could not answer. He could now supply the answer. The total number of shareholders was 51, holding 1250 shares. The number of shareholders not present at the first meeting or represented was seven, holding 95 shares. Of the seven absentees six had since approved of the scheme and the other had given no intimation either way. In further reply to his Lordship, he maintained that the word "reconstruction" could rightly be used. They said that the scheme was for a sale of the old undertaking at a price of \$250,000. Their second proposition was that the scheme was also properly called a reconstruction, using the word in its ordinary business sense. The third proposition was that the scheme, either as a reconstruction or amalgamation, could be carried out without invoking the aid of section 201.

Mr. Pollock briefly replied to the last points. The case was then adjourned sine die.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

Wong Tat-hin sued Lam Tat for \$493 45, being money advanced by plaintiff to defendant while the latter was in his employ. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. F. X. D'Almada e Castro for the defendant.

The plaintiff having produced his books in support of his claim, Mr. d'Almada e Castro called in question the manner in which they were kept, and stated that the books appeared to have been prepared for this case.

His Honour, in giving judgment for defendant with costs, said plaintiff had said enough to qualify himself for gaol.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS FICGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) and MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CHAN IP SHI v. THE WING KEE FIRM.

An appeal arising out of the action Chan Ip Shi v. the Wing Kee firm was commenced. The original action was a claim by Chan Ip Shi for \$8,640 money lent to defendant. Judgment was given for plaintiff and subsequently it was held that Lau Siu Chuen was a partner in the defendant firm. The present appeal was from the latter decision, the Court being asked to determine whether Lau Siu Chuen was a partner in the Wing Kee firm at the time that cause for action arose, and whether as such he was liable to execution of the judgment.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the appellant, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office), represented the respondent.

Mr. Slade stated that they had brought an action for a declaration as to whether Lau Siu Chuen was a partner in the Wing Kee firm and for an injunction against the plaintiff from the said Lau Siu Chuen as a partner in the defendant firm. He would ask for an adjournment of the appeal pending the decision of the action.

Mr. Pollock—Surely that application should have been made on motion?

The Chief Justice—There must certainly be a motion.

The Puisse Judge—It would be better to postpone this hearing for a week and the application could then be made on motion.

Mr. Slade—Will your Lordships grant me leave to move?

The Chief Justice—Well, we must first hear what Mr. Pollock has to say.

Mr. Pollock said he strongly objected to any postponement. The judgment was given on 12th of last month and the other side had ample time in which to prepare their case. He contended that a stay of execution could only be granted upon payment of the sum in dispute into court.

The Chief Justice asked what the action was. Mr. Pollock replied that it was against the Wing Kee firm for \$8,640.

The Chief Justice remarked that the issue in the case went much further than the interests of Mr. Pollock's client, who was only interested to the extent of his debt. The interest of the other side was far wider.

Mr. Pollock—Of course, every plaintiff is interested to the extent of his judgment.

The Chief Justice—The issue is far more important to defendant than to plaintiff.

Mr. Pollock—I cannot admit that.

The Chief Justice—It means a declaration as to whether Lau Siu Chuen was not a partner, and that would affect the interest of other people who might take advantage of such a declaration.

Mr. Pollock—If the defendants will pay the money and costs into Court then we will be ready to consent to an adjournment.

The Chief Justice—There are two forms. Let us deal with the personal question first. It is only a question of a day or two.

Mr. Pollock—I don't see how it would only be for a day or two. My friend and I are both engaged in an arbitration before Mr. Danby. It will take several days, and we cannot possibly get this case on within the next day or two.

The Chief Justice—Then the adjournment would be very long?

Mr. Pollock said that unless a specific declaration were made it would mean that they would lose the fruits of their judgment. However, if the other side would pay the amount and costs into Court there might be an adjournment.

Mr. Slade replied that it was a large sum of money to lie idle. It would cripple the man.

The Chief Justice said Mr. Slade could hardly expect the adjournment he asked for unless he brought the money into Court.

Mr. Pollock, arguing against the adjournment, asked why a creditor who had obtained judgment should be pushed off until another action had been tried. His friend had appealed against his Lordship's decision and they (his clients) had the right to have it heard.

Mr. Slade said his idea was to have the actions consolidated.

The Chief Justice said Mr. Slade could not get his second motion unless the money were paid into Court.

Mr. Slade wished the adjournment to the next available sitting of the Court.

The Chief Justice afterwards intimated that unless the money were paid into Court on Tuesday the case must be argued on Wednesday.

Mr. Pollock said that the amount of the judgment was \$8,640, taxed costs \$181-45, taxed costs of issue \$1,667-57, total \$10,499.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

Friday, March 16th.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

PETTY DEBTS.

E. Osborne, proprietor of the Kowloon Hotel, sued F. E. J. Bishop for \$21 odd for refreshments supplied. Judgment was given for plaintiff.

John Lemm sued Mrs. V. Marshall for the recovery of \$130 for goods supplied. Defendant admitted the debt and judgment was entered for plaintiff.

Mrs. Marshall was also sued by Madame Jay, for \$52, judgment being again given for plaintiff.

A TIRED COOK.

An Indian engineer employed at the Sugar Refinery was sued by his Indian cook for \$23 for wages due and rations supplied. Defendant said he paid plaintiff his wages regularly. On March 5th he asked him to prepare some coffee at night, but plaintiff declined because he was tired. Defendant then dismissed him. His Lordship said plaintiff had failed to prove his case, and judgment was given for defendant with costs.

POLICE COURT.

Friday, March 9th.

BEFORE MR. F. A. HAZELAND (FIRST POLICE MAGISTRATE).

DEFECTIVE MORTAR.

Two summonses at the instance of the Building Authority of the Public Works Department against Chinese contractors for using defective mortar in the construction of houses were heard.

In the first, Hop Lee, of 56, D'Aguilar Street, was prosecuted by Mr. W. T. Edwards for using defective mortar in the construction of seven houses at Glenealy.

His Worship—What was the tensile strain?

Mr. Edwards—A sample of mortar was taken on 3rd February. Six briquettes were made. Three were tested in 14 days and three in 28 days. The average was three and a third pounds.

His Worship—What is the minimum?

Mr. Edwards—We have not laid down a minimum. We have not prosecuted on anything over 20 lbs.

His Worship—At any rate, anything under 20 lbs. is bad in your opinion.

Mr. Edwards—Yes.

His Worship imposed a fine of \$250.

In the second instance, Heung Shing, of 37, D'Aguilar Street, was summoned by Mr. W. Dobbs in respect of houses in Humphreys Avenue, Kowloon.

Defendant pleaded not guilty, adding that the mortar was in accordance with the Government requirements.

Mr. Dobbs stated the facts. Briquettes were made from the sample of mortar taken from one house, and when tested there was only an average tensile strain of half a pound.

His Worship—In your opinion it was not good lime mortar that was being used?

Mr. Dobbs—I should say it was decidedly bad.

Defendant said the rain affected the mortar.

Mr. Dobbs replied that he took the sample two days after the rain.

A fine of \$250 was imposed.

CANTON.

Canton, March 8th.

THE YUET-HAN.

The seven charitable institutions collected on the 3rd \$34,487, on the 4th \$89,378 and on the 5th \$2,473 dollars for railway shares. It is reported that from the 23rd ultimo to date \$380,105 have been collected by these institutions.

The Cantonese merchants in Hanoi have telegraphed to the General Chamber of Commerce here that they have subscribed for 20,000 railway shares.

ADMIRAL TRAIN ENTERTAINED.

Yesterday Viceroy Shum entertained the American Admiral at a banquet in his Yamen. Admiral Train was accompanied by Mr. Lay, the U.S. Consul-General, and officers of the *Bainbridge*. The interview was very cordial, and the Viceroy exchanged photos with the Admiral. The Viceroy will not return his call, as Admiral Train insisted that he should not do so, owing to His Excellency having only just recovered from his illness. During their stay here the Admiral, Mrs. and Miss Train were the guests of the U.S. Consul-General. The whole party returned to Hongkong this morning by the U.S.S. *Barley*.

PREPARED OPIUM TAX.

One of the new regulations concerning prepared opium is to the effect that any person who desires to convert crude opium into the boiled and prepared article must first obtain a license from the farmer. On the 6th inst. a wealthy Chinaman named Chung, residing at Yin-Tze Lane, requested the opium boiler of the Wang-Hink-Kok shop to go to his private residence to boil several cakes of crude opium. The matter was reported to the farmer, who sent excise officers to Chung's residence with the result that Chung's stock of opium was discovered under a bed and seized. The boiler and his master were arrested and are now awaiting their trial at the Nam-Hoi Magistracy.

EXECUTIONS.

Yesterday three prisoners were taken from the Nam-Hoi prison to the Tien-ohi Ma-Tan and beheaded. They were notorious pirates who have given much trouble to the authorities and were responsible for many daring robberies committed of late.

Canton, March 10th.

THE YUET-HAN RAILWAY.

At a meeting held yesterday at the Oi Yenk Tong charitable institution by the gentry and merchants, the decision made on the advice of the Hongkong merchants by the Canton General Chamber of Commerce that the railway shares should be paid in bank-notes was reversed. It is now decided that payment may be made in subsidiary coin at the standard weight of Tls. 99.5 mace for Tls. 100. Any payment made in bank-notes will be converted into subsidiary coin value and any premium thereon refunded. The meeting also decided that the large family house belonging to Mr. Fung, and which the railway office temporarily occupies, shall be bought.

All monies already collected (about \$1,000,000) have been placed with various banks at 4 per cent. interest per month on fixed deposit.

The Cantonese in Hunan Province have sent a telegram to Kwong Yan charitable institution here to reserve 10,000 shares for them.

VICEROY SHUM.

A Peking telegram received here states that the Central Government has forwarded a memorial to the Throne advising that Tibet should

be made into a province and recommending that Viceroy Shum be sent there.

THE CANTON MILITARY COLLEGE.

There are over 3,000 applicants for admission to the Cheong Ping Hok Tong. Amongst the candidates is a Military Cheong Yum (the highest degree obtainable in a military examination) This man is Ping-Kang, and he holds the post of Colonel of the Viceroy's guards.

ROBBING A POLICEMAN.

A policeman on duty in the Sai-Wang Street in the new walled city while gazing at a passing procession had his revolver stolen from him. Having discovered his loss shortly before returning to his station, and being afraid of the consequences, he arrested a passer-by and accused him of having committed the theft. The case is on trial.

THE CANTON WATERWORKS.

Last year I reported that Viceroy Shum issued a proclamation re the establishment of waterworks in Canton. It was then decided that half the capital would be supplied by the provincial Government and the other half by the merchants. The latter have now signified to the authorities that they will not take the matter up. This is the outcome of the recent railway imbroglio, and I fail to see how the Viceroy is going to manage his scheme if the people refuse to come forward with their capital.

March 12th.

*DARING ROBBERY

On the 9th inst. the Fung family in Cheong Han street went to the theatre in Honam leaving their servants to take care of the house. During their absence the house was visited by a gang of burglars. The inmates were cowed and tied up in a remote room and the only servant who attempted to raise the alarm, an old amah, was immediately strangled to death. The robbers ransacked the house and carried away all the jewellery and valuables amounting to several thousand dollars. The affair was immediately reported to the authorities and now the Poon Yu magistrate has issued a proclamation offering 1,000 dollars for the arrest of the ringleader. Sundry other rewards are also offered for any information leading to the arrest of the desperadoes.

CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

Yesterday the Poon Yu magistrate and a deputy from the Sin Han Kuk went to examine the site selected for the Canton terminus of the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

THE BOYCOTT.

Upon the request of the American Minister in Peking, the Waiwupu has instructed Viceroy Shum to suppress the boycott of American goods. The Viceroy has replied that owing to his recent troubles with the people it is very difficult to suppress the boycott associations just now.

SALT TAX.

Some time ago Viceroy Shum imposed a tax of 10 cash per catty on salt for the purpose of raising funds for the Yuet-Han Railway. The salt merchants objected and the tax was lowered to 6 cash, but the salt guild still objected. On the 8th inst., the Salt Commissioner sent a petition to the Viceroy stating that the merchants had agreed to pay an increase of 3 cash per catty. This having come to the knowledge of the merchants they drew up a petition protesting against the increase and affirming that the Salt Commissioner's petition was drawn up on his own initiative and without any warrant from the merchants concerned. If the Viceroy insists on collecting the increased tax it is feared that another serious trouble will be the result.

March 14th.

PUBLIC CONDEMNATION UNPLEASANT.

It is reported that Chow Hok-yuen, a son of Viceroy Chow Fuk, who took a prominent part in the recent railway troubles, is said to be desirous of leaving Canton, as he is held to blame by the people in connection with Lai Kwai-pui's arrest.

WHOLESALE DECAPITATION.

The Hok-shan district being sorely infested with robbers, Viceroy Shum sometime ago dispatched Admiral Tsun to hunt the robbers down. It is now reported that a force of braves have succeeded in capturing 144 robbers

together with 42 rifles, and a great quantity of ammunition. Their trial is proceeding; 53 of them have already been beheaded.

A YOUTH EXECUTED.

Yesterday the Nam Hoi sent, under instruction from the Viceroy, Tai Kan Heung, a well-known robber recently extradited from Hongkong, to the execution ground to be beheaded. The criminal was only 18 years of age, but had a bad record.

SIMPLE OPIUM CURE.

One of the small local charitable institutions, called the Chan Mo Sin She, has discovered a plan for curing the habit of opium-smoking. It is to take dandelion [roots?] boiled with lean pork. It is reported that many opium-smokers have been thus cured.

AN IMPUDENT SQUEEZE.

Wong Ping, an employee in the China Light and Power Coy., has been arrested and sent to the Nam Hoi Magistrate to be dealt with for stealing company property and for demanding "squeezes" from the Chinese consumers by threatening to cut off the supply of electricity.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT CANTON.

A few days ago two girls died of plague in a house in Po Yuen street, in the western suburbs. Their putative mother fled to Macao in fear of the plague. Cases of smallpox are still very many, and may be seen walking about in the streets. A sampan girl was observed at work with her face in the acute stage of eruption.

A LUCKY ROGUE.

A pickpocket caught picking a foreigner's pocket yesterday must be marvelling at the temperament of the foreign "devil." Finding the man had taken only two dollars, the foreigner asked the policeman to let him go; the two dollars to be kept as a "cumshaw." This was done.

March 15th.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The Viceroy has sent a long despatch to the Chamber of Commerce deciding that the management of the Canton-Hankow Railway shall be controlled by the merchants. The Viceroy says that he has heard of the energy of the people in taking up shares and requests the Chamber of Commerce to immediately appoint an energetic and wealthy man as director general of the company, and has also sent to the Chamber a copy of the British loan agreement showing the amount loaned and the interest to be paid by the Kwangtung Province.

CONSTRUCTION WORK.

On the 11th inst. in the afternoon several deputies accompanied by three foreign engineers went to Wongsha to examine the stock of railway materials. It is rumoured that work will be soon started to complete the trunk line from Wongsha to Ko-tung. The money required will be advanced by the Government and will be refunded by the company later on. It is said that some foreign engineers are offering to contract for \$40,000 per mile.

THE RETIRING MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

Yesterday, Cheang Pat-si, Minister of Commerce, made his farewell calls on the local officials prior to his departure, which is to take place shortly.

MORE RAILWAY BUSINESS.

The eight charitable institutions and the 72 guilds have decided to hold a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce to draw up a telegram to be forwarded to the Peking Chamber of Commerce relating to the question of the registration of the company and also concerning questions relating to the construction of the line.

KING-CHOW TO BE OPENED.

Some time ago someone proposed to the Waiwupu to open King-chow in Kwangtung to foreign trade. The proposer stated that a certain country has a keen desire to obtain this island and to check them it is necessary to open King-chow to foreign trade. The Waiwupu has sent many private telegrams to Viceroy Shum with regard to this proposal, asking him to investigate the matter. It is now reported that Viceroy Shum has replied by telegraph that there are many objections to opening King-chow to foreign trade. He asks that the matter be left for future consideration.

COMPANY REPORTS.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-eighth annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at noon on Wednesday, the 21st March, reads as follows:—

The general agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the Company's business for the year 1905 with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

The refineries were well employed during the greater part of the year, but during the last few months a falling off in demand necessitated a reduction in the output of refined sugar.

Inclusive of \$42,812.75 brought forward from the year 1904 the sum at credit of profit and loss account is \$1,405,419.68, from which has to be deducted \$200,000 paid as interim dividend of 10 per cent. on 18th August last, leaving \$1,205,419.68 available for appropriation, and this sum the general agents and consulting committee recommend should be dealt with as follows, viz:—

To pay a final dividend of \$15 per share,	\$300,000.00
To transfer to a reserve fund	850,000.00
To bonus to European staff	15,000.00
To carry forward	40,419.68
	<hr/>
	\$1,205,419.68

The steady fall which has occurred during the year in values of raw sugar and the uncertainty as to the future course of prices render it necessary to provide a large sum against forward purchases, hence the proposed transfer of \$850,000 to a reserve fund which will be utilized for the purpose of writing down such commitments.

Consulting Committee: This consists of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. A. G. Wood and E. Shellim, of whom Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Wood offer themselves for re-election. Mr. A. J. Raymond resigned his seat on the committee on his departure from the Colony in November last.

Auditors: The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and W. H. Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

BALANCE SHEET—ONE YEAR—TO DECEMBER 31st, 1905.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	\$2,000,000.00
Equalization of dividend fund	450,000.00
Repairs and renewals account	86,129.85
Sundry creditors	408,243.25
Balance of profit and loss account	\$1,405,419.68
Less interim dividend at 10% paid on the 18th August, 1905	200,000.00
	<hr/>
	1,205,419.68
	<hr/>
	\$4,149,792.78

ASSETS.

Property account consisting of—	
East Point refinery	} . . . \$1,531,209.03
Bowrington refinery	
Swatow refinery	
Hongkong distillery	
Cash	1,010.77
Raw and refined sugar, &c.	2,038,299.43
Spirits and rum	10,517.65
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.	290,179.17
Sundry debtors	62,527.30
Shipments	\$352,816.87
Less advances	136,767.49
	<hr/>
	216,049.39
	<hr/>
	\$4,149,792.78

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

To balance on Dec. 31st, 1904	\$1,581,209.03
	<hr/>
	\$1,581,209.03
By transfer from profit and loss account as per last report	50,000.00
By balance on Dec. 31st, 1905	1,531,209.03
	<hr/>
	\$1,581,209.03

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To commission	\$ 83,788.47
To remuneration to Consulting Committee	2,500.00
To auditors' fees	750.00
	87,038.47
To interim dividend at \$10 per share paid August 18th, 1905	200,000.00
	287,038.47
To net balance	1,205,419.68
	\$1,492,458.15
By balance brought forward from last year	\$ 42,812.75
By gain on working	1,447,751.98
By interest	1,893.42
	\$1,492,458.15

PHILIPPINE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the board of directors to be presented at the third ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the above Company, No. 100, Calle Anloague, Manila, at 3.30 p.m., on Thursday, the 15th March, 1906, is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The local agents now beg to submit their report of the Company's business for the year 1905. You will be pleased to see that the accounts are considerably better than those presented at our last meeting and the heavy debit balance then carried forward has been much reduced. Salaries and charges in Manila are lower in proportion by some £2,000 and the present year will show another heavy reduction.

Your late manager, Mr. Wright, having retired from the Company, we have agreed to accept less than half the amount provided by Articles of Association for the general managers and this will effect a further saving of some P6,000. Outside Manila there are no management or agency charges whatever, nor have been since the incorporation of the companies. Due to clearance of old stocks of tobacco, etc., we wish to point out a saving under interest account of some P7,000. Early in the year under review we purchased new cigarette machinery with the result that this branch of your business has very largely increased, and we may mention that January sales showed a record for this department. We hope this year will show a further steady increase. The machines are now run by electric power, and it is not only a saving in expense but is an improvement in many ways. The Giralda has been leased for all the time under review. We had some trouble with our lessees of the carriage factory and being unable to re-let the premises, came to an arrangement with the owners by which they took the buildings at a valuation and cancelled remainder of our lease. This account will now disappear from our books. We look forward with confidence to the present year and trust when we next meet to show you a satisfactory report.

Directors.—Your directors retire, and Messrs B. Toovey and R. E. Humphreys offer themselves for re-election. Mr. Sloan, not wishing to serve another term, we propose Mr. E. E. White to take his place.

THE PHILIPPINE CO., LTD.
HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.,
Local Agents.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1905.

Liabilities.	
Capital	P 608,108.11
Loan Hongkong Bank	95,839.41
Sundry creditors	7,673.43
	P 711,220.95
Assets.	
Subscription account 1 share ... P	9.10
Land and buildings	194,219.20
Goodwill and Trade Marks	229,357.79
Plant and stocks	115,961.24
Furniture	17,056.65
Machinery	40,421.46
Cash in hand and at bankers	3,698.27
Fire insurance in advance	1,417.36
Sundry debtors	74,654.98
Balance	34,324.90
	P 711,120.95

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

LOSSES.	
Balance carried forward at 31st December, 1904	P 53,619.69
Fire insurance	2,579.89
Interest	5,063.89
Management, salaries and charges in Manila	23,575.66
Exchange	10.47
Carriage factory	2,087.20
Bonus and commissions	1,301.50
Licenses and taxes	2,197.72
Lawyers' fees	946.49
Advertising	805.03
Losses on consignments	1,109.42
	P 93,297.06
PROFITS.	
Manufacturing and working profits P	57,227.06
Commissions	1,524.44
Bad debts recovered	220.68
Balance	34,324.90
	P 93,297.06

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA.

The report of the directors to the fifteenth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders to be held on April 14th, reads:—Gentlemen, The directors have now the pleasure to submit to you the accounts and balance sheet for year ending 31st December, 1905.

The gross profits, including \$41,768.26 brought forward from last year, are \$305,257.76, which, after deducting all charges and making an allowance for B. and Doubtful Debts, leave a Net Profit of \$186,919.94, which the directors propose to deal with as follows:—Write off furniture account \$10,000.00, place to Capital Reserve Fund \$12,731.20 (bringing this up to £12,735 at 1s 8d to the dollar), transfer to Reserve Fund \$90,088.80, and the balance of \$74,099.94 to be carried forward to next account.

The board have decided, in accordance with the wishes of a large majority of the shareholders, to continue the Exchange business of the bank. It is the intention of the board to build up the reserves of the bank until they amount to \$600,000, and until this end has been reached, they will not recommend the declaration of any dividend.

Mr. Kwan Fong Kuk resigned his seat on the board, Mr. Reginald Harding took his place and has since resigned. The board do not at present propose anyone to fill his seat.

The Right Honourable C. B. Stuart Wortley, K.C., M.P., retires in rotation from the London Committee, and Mr. Ewens from the Hongkong Board, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts at Head Office have been audited by Mr. A. R. Lowe, chartered accountant, and Mr. E. A. M. Williams, A. S. A. A. (of the firm of Messrs. Lowe and Bingham).

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., chartered accountants, audited the London accounts.

Your Obedient Servant,
C. EWENS,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER 1905.

LIABILITIES.	
Authorized capital:—	
99,925 Ordinary shares of £7 each	£699,475
Issued capital (at 1s 8d. to the \$):—	
40,453 ordinary shares of £7 each, £5 paid up, £202,265 ...	\$2,427,180.00
Capital reserve fund	140,088.80
Reserve fund	59,911.20
Notes in circulation	69,965.00
Fixed deposits and current accounts	386,585.89
Bills for collection and branch balances	54,141.04
Drafts, acceptance and endorsements (bills re-discounted)	79,949.71
Balance of profit and loss account	186,919.94
	Total \$3,404,741.58
ASSETS.	
Cash on hand and at bankers ...	\$ 209,668.42
Government securities (£31,050 at 2/0-9/16)	303,589.31

Bills receivable, loans and advances	2,125,556.83
Bills for collection receivable and branch balances	758,097.05
Furniture	10,000.00
	Total \$3,404,741.58

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1905.

Charges, directors' fees, salaries, etc.	\$118,337.82
Amount to write off furniture account	\$10,000.00
Amount to be placed to capital reserve fund	12,731.20
Amount to be transferred to reserve fund	90,088.80
Balance to be carried forward to next account	74,099.94
	186,919.94

Total	\$305,257.76
Balance brought forward from last year	\$ 41,768.26
Gross earnings for year ending 31st December, 1905	263,489.50
	Total \$305,257.76

On 1st January, 1906, the capital and reserve funds will stand as follows:—

Capital	£202,265
(at 1s 8d. to the \$)	\$2,427,180.00
Capital to reserve fund	£12,735
(at 1s 8d. to the \$)	152,820.00
Reserve fund \$150,000	£15,351
(at 2s. 0.3d. to the \$)	150,000.00
	Total £230,351 \$2,730,000.00

SHANGHAI DIVIDENDS.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts were informed by wire on Mar. 13, that the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited, had declared a final dividend of Tls. 8, making Tls. 14 per share for 1905; and that the Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited, has declared a final dividend of 37/6, making 52/6 per share for 1905.

The N. C. Daily News understands that it is the intention of the Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., to recommend at the next annual meeting to be held on the 28th inst., a final dividend of thirty-seven shillings and sixpence (37s. 6d.) per share at the exchange of 2s. 9d. for the past year.

The report of the W. Haiwei Land and Building Co., Ltd., for 1905 shows a credit balance in profit and loss account of Tls. 1,324, of which no disposition is suggested. The profit on working account was Tls. 3,408, the difference having been written off furniture and building accounts.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LTD.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Company's Offices, Queen's Buildings on the 10th March. There were present:—Messrs. H. W. Slade (chairman), A. Haupt, E. Goetz, A. B. Linton, C. R. Lensmann (directors), J. Whittall (secretary), G. T. Veitch, W. J. Saunders, C. M. G. Burns, A. B. Rouse, A. Ough, W. H. T. Davis and E. H. Ray.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The object of this meeting is to confirm the special resolutions passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 16th February. I beg therefore to move that resolution No. 1, which reads as follows, be confirmed:—

"That the Articles of Association of the Company be altered in the following manner:—

"The following Article shall be substituted for Article 130, namely:—130. The Board, through its Secretary, shall make Yearly Statements of the Accounts of the Company from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, in each and every year, which shall be duly audited and presented to the Shareholders, at each of the Ordinary Meetings of the Company, together with a Report on the general position of the Company."

Mr. VEITCH seconded, and the proposition was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose the confirmation of resolution No. 2. It reads:—That the Board, through its Secretary, shall make a Statement of the Company as from the 1st day of May, 1905, to the 31st day of December, 1905, which shall be duly audited and presented to the Shareholders at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Company to be held during 1906 and that, inasmuch as the Accounts of the Company have already been audited and presented to the Shareholders to the 30th April, 1905, no further or other Statements of the Accounts of the Company for the year 1905 shall be called for by, or presented to, the Shareholders in respect of Article 130 as this day substituted."

Mr. DAVIS seconded the proposition, and it was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thanks for your attendance.

GEO. FENWICK AND CO., LTD.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Geo. Fenwick and Co., Limited, was held at the Hongkong Hotel on March 10th. Mr. A. Rodger presided, and there were also present, Messrs. W. Parlance, J. Rodger, J. I. Andrew, J. McCorquodale, A. Forbes, J. D. Kinnaid and W. G. Winterburn.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will adopt our usual practice and take the report and statement of accounts as read. Your directors regret that the year under review, so far as shipbuilding and engineering are concerned, has shown a slackness of business through nearly the whole of the time. Consequently when tendering for work estimates had to be cut very fine to compete with the keen competition that existed, but I am glad to say we secured a fair share of what work was offering, although we had to be content with a smaller profit than usual. Meanwhile we are using our utmost endeavours towards retrenchment in every department of the establishment without sacrificing efficiency. We had hoped for a briskness in trade setting in with the close of the Russian and Japanese war, but in this we have been disappointed. The launches, plant, machinery and buildings have been kept in a fairly good state of repair. The report and statement of accounts now placed before you state very clearly the Company's position, therefore, it is needless for me to go into figures or details concerning them, and we trust the appropriation of profits as presented meets with your approval. Our reclamation at North Point is nearing completion. This property should be a good asset in the near future, as it is a magnificent site and a suitable one for many purposes. Owing to the abandonment of the Praya East reclamation scheme, accompanied by the depression in the land market and a general tightness of money in the Colony (temporary, I hope), we think it advisable to continue carrying on our business, in the meantime, in our present premises at Wanchai and have petitioned the authorities for permission to do so, as the present time is very inopportune for selling land or calling up more capital, and one of these two things we shall require to do shortly, if we proceed at once with the erection of the new works at North Point. This matter is having our careful attention and serious consideration. Mr. Winterburn, our present general manager, who is leaving the Colony in May, has resigned his position after fourteen years' service, throughout which time he has worked hard and done his best to promote the welfare of the Company. We all wish him, I am sure, every success in his new undertaking and hope he may be in a position to place some good orders with us before long. Mr. Andrew, who has been in the Company's service for nearly ten years and understands the routine of our business, having carried on Mr. Winterburn's duties during his absence on leave for ten months in 1901, has been appointed to succeed him. I do not think there is any further useful information I can give you, but before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be very pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions relating to them.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report. This was seconded by Mr. KINNAID and carried.

Mr. J. RODGER proposed, and Mr. J. McCORQUODALE seconded, the re-election of Mr. W. Parlance as director. Agreed to.

Mr. T. ARNOLD was re-elected director, on the proposition of Mr. ANDREW, seconded by Mr. FORBES.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on March 14th. Hon. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present—Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. P. White, D. E. Brown, A. V. Apcar (directors), G. Moffatt (secretary), J. R. Michael, G. Somerville, J. Young and Captain Tillett.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report and accounts which were issued on 28th February as read. The result is slightly better than that of last year, the working account showing a balance of \$12,057.95 as against \$95,146.62 for 1904. After making allowance for depreciation and putting \$1,000 to reserve fund as required by the Articles of Association, it is proposed to pay a dividend of 6 per cent., absorbing \$39,000, and carry forward \$4,563.45. The year under review was a very uneventful one for us, cargo was scarce, and although sugar from Manila was offering rather more freely, the rates of freight offered for it were quite unremunerative. Everything that could be done has been done to keep down expenses, but passenger steamers of this class must be kept up to a certain standard, and we therefore doubt if more can now be done in the direction of economy. You will notice that we have reduced the debt to our bankers from \$275,000, to \$190,000, and that we made a saving in interest of about \$10,000. This was partly effected by the sale of 1,721 shares at \$20, which with \$8,625 formerly at credit of forfeited shares raised the capital to the round sum of \$650,000. There is nothing special to remark about the balance sheet, but I may say for your satisfaction that the amounts against sundry debtors and outstanding freights have since almost all been collected. As regards the present year, I fear our prospects are not very rosy, for I am sorry to say that so far we have not begun well, our earnings for January and February being rather less than for the same months last year. Before I move the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

Mr. MICHAEL—I have a few questions, Mr. Chairman. Have we made any saving in the premium of insurance since we have written down the value of the steamers?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, yes.

Mr. MICHAEL—How much?

The CHAIRMAN—I couldn't tell you off hand, but a very considerable sum.

Mr. MICHAEL—There is another question I should like to bring to the attention of the Board. Since we have written down the value of the steamers to practically half the cost, is it necessary that we should write down, in accordance with the Articles of Association, even now, seeing that we have already written down fifty per cent. of their value?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. They still go on depreciating, are second hand boats on the market, and we could not sell them probably for what they stand at.

Mr. MICHAEL—Quite so; but the boats cost originally a million and a half.

The CHAIRMAN—The value of steamers is a matter of opinion, and you must leave that to us.

Mr. MICHAEL—So you think it must necessarily be done?

The CHAIRMAN—Undoubtedly I do.

There being no further questions, the CHAIRMAN moved that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. BROWN seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. MICHAEL moved that Messrs N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, H. P. White and A. V. Apcar be re-elected to the consulting committee. Captain TILLET seconded. Carried.

It was proposed by Mr. WHITE, seconded by Mr. SIEBS, and carried, that Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors.

The Chairman—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be delivered on application.

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on March 14th. Hon. Mr. R. Shewan was in the chair, other shareholders present being—Messrs. H. P. White and D. E. Brown (directors), R. Hancock (secretary), J. R. Michael, T. Arnold and Fung Wa-chun. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, and

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—As usual we will, if you have no objection, take the report and accounts which were issued on the 28th February as read. We have a very lean year to chronicle. Business in rope throughout 1905 was bad, and with nothing special in our favour we had a great many disturbing factors to contend against. It is true the total turn-over was little short of that of the previous year, but the average price obtained for rope was lower, while the cost of hemp was as high as ever. Owing to the general depression in shipping and also to the reduction of the fleet on this station, our local sales show a severe falling off, and although we sold more in the north, doubtless on account of the war, we had to compete there with adulterated Japanese rope, and to accept very poor prices. Then, too, the high rates of exchange ruling gave us smaller returns in silver from sales made in gold using countries. Lastly, the price of coal was, as you all know, unusually high. Naturally our profits are less, and we therefore recommend instead of our usual dividend of \$10.00 per share a dividend of \$9.00 per share, which is equal to 18 per cent., a good dividend still, seeing that depreciation has been well provided for. We propose also putting the nominal sum of \$1,000 to the reserve fund, as by the Articles of Association we cannot declare a dividend until we have placed something to reserve. This will leave \$5,813.29 to be carried forward. As regards the accounts I have only one thing to point out, and that is, no credit has been taken for the dividend amounting to \$3,040.00 due from our investment in China Provident shares, as it was not paid till 1906, and it will therefore appear in this current year's account. I mention this because our not taking credit for this item till it is actually paid cause this year's profit and loss to appear some \$3,000 worse than it really is as compared with 1904 when credit was taken for a similar dividend. As to the future, we have begun this year very well, and it is a satisfactory feature that, if our local sales have fallen off, our sales elsewhere have increased, but I fear that as long as Manila hemp keeps at its present high level of price and poor level of quality, we cannot expect any marked improvement on former years, especially while shipping continues dull. Before I move the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions from shareholders.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. MICHAEL seconded the motion, which was carried.

Messrs. A. J. Raymond, D. E. Brown, H. P. White and Dr. J. W. Noble were re-elected to the consulting committee, on the motion of Mr. ARNOLD, seconded by Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN.

Mr. WHITE proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts as auditors.

Mr. BROWN seconded and the proposition was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had on application.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LTD.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at the City Hall on the 12th inst. The Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson presided, and there were also present—Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. A. G. Wood, E. A. Hewett, N. A. Siebs, E. Goetz, A. Haupt, E. Shellim, G. H. Medhurst, C. R. Lenzmann, C. H. Thompson (directors), E. Osborne (secretary), J. R. Michael, A. Forbes, H. Percy Smith, J. Orange, T. Arnold, F. Smyth, J. Lambert and Captains Brown and Tillett.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been with you for several days, I propose they be regarded as read. The main feature of the year's work, as disclosed by the report, is that we have expended considerable sums in the development of your property and business to keep pace with the growth of the Colony's shipping trade, which places Hongkong in the unique position of harbouring annually the largest aggregate of registered tonnage of any port in the world. The commencement of work on the British section of the Kowloon-Canton railway leads to the hope that the long deferred industrial advance of Kowloon is nearer at hand, and you will therefore doubtless endorse the Board's action in acquiring from the estate of the late Mr. Grauville Sharp additional accommodation in the piece of land that lay wedged into the Company's property at Kowloon Point. We have spent largely and are making further outlays on lighter craft in order to cope with the increasing amount of work afloat which is now entrusted to us and which was formerly monopolised by native lightermen. These additional boats will also assist in expediting discharge of vessels lying at the wharves. In the early part of 1905 considerable difficulties arose in connection with China New Year settlements, and you will be pleased to learn that though serious irregularities occurred in connection with goods deposited in other public godowns the merchandise entrusted to our care was in every instance found to be intact, thus emphasizing the advantages of storing with the Wharf Co. The dividend which is recommended for your acceptance, though larger than has been hitherto customary, still represents but a moderate return on the market value of your assets, if such value may be gauged by the price at which land in the vicinity of the Kowloon godowns, has recently changed ownership. The development of your business has been slow and the rate of profit derived from it has not kept pace with the appreciation of your property, but you have satisfaction in the knowledge that the business rests on solid foundations and we must look forward to the possibility of more abundant harvests as the years progress. If there are no questions I beg to move that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Mr. MICHAEL—For the last eighteen years we have been supplied with a statement of the working account, but I see from this report that it has been dropped out entirely and no remark has been made. I should like to hear the reason from the chair.

The CHAIRMAN—The directors, after due consideration, decided that it was inadvisable to publish the particulars which had hitherto been given under working account as they afforded information which might be made use of to our detriment.

Mr. ARNOLD seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, and it was carried.

Mr. FORBES moved that the appointment of Messrs. Medhurst, Hewett, Lenzmann, Lewis and Raymond to the board of directors be confirmed.

Mr. ORANGE seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. MICHAEL proposed, Mr. SMITH seconded, and it was agreed that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin be re-appointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business, gentlemen. I am obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants can be had on application.

THE NANCHANG MASSACRE.

THE OFFICIAL ROMAN CATHOLIC ACCOUNT.

The N.-C. Daily News of Saturday, the 10th inst., says.—In Wednesday's *Echo de Chine* appeared a long account of the events leading up to the recent murders at Nanchang, and we now learn that this is the official report made by the Roman Catholic Bishop to the French authorities. It is too long to be reproduced in *extenso*, but we subjoin a *précis*.

At the outset it is explained that the late sub-prefect Chiang was seriously compromised on the occasion of the troubles at Sinchang, the arrangement made in regard to which he had failed to carry out, by releasing the chiefs of the guilty parties, and by promising, on his honour, immunity to two of those accused, who had come to Nanchang. This had been made the subject of complaint by the Mission to the French Consulate at Shanghai and also to the Legation at Peking. The sub-prefect had since endeavoured to extricate himself, without losing countenance with his superiors.

On the 17th of February he asked Mr. Lacroche to invite him to dinner at the Mission on the 22nd of that month to discuss this affair. It would be more easy, he said, to talk quietly at the Mission, and he would only bring two secretaries with him. On the 18th of February the sub-prefect sent presents and his card to the Mission, and announced that he would visit himself the next day. Mr. Lacroche thought he had been mistaken possibly as to the day the sub-prefect wished to dine, and prepared to receive him next day, but when Chiang arrived he refused to stop, and said it was the 22nd that he had arranged to dine at the Mission. He explained that his present call was to ask, as a favour, that the invitation to be sent to him should be expressed in threatening language, and that mention should be made of the possibility of a gunboat being sent to Nanchang if the Sinchang affair were not settled at once. The reason for the request was that the letter might be shown to Chiang's superiors who were to be led to think that he had been forced to give way under menaces. Mr. Lacroche caused a letter of invitation to be dispatched to the magistrate as requested, but refused to address it otherwise than in terms of politeness.

On the 22nd the sub-prefect arrived at the Mission at 3 p.m. All through the dinner he avoided reference to the Sinchang affair, but continually complained that he was not properly appreciated by his superiors. It was not until he had risen from the table that the magistrate mentioned the affair he had proposed to discuss, and he then propounded a series of conditions. Mr. Lacroche, who began to doubt if the magistrate had any authority to treat at all, asked him to put his demands in writing, in order that they might be referred to the higher ecclesiastical authorities. He offered a pencil for the purpose, but the magistrate preferred to go into the room of the priest's secretary, where he was left alone to write. A quarter of an hour passed. During that interval Chiang came to the door of the secretary's room and called a soldier, to whom he gave an order in a low voice, and who then hastily quitted the Mission. The magistrate returned to the room and told a servant who was sent to him with tea that he did not wish to be disturbed. He closed the door. Some moments later a servant, crossing the hall, heard groans coming from the secretary's room. He looked in and saw the magistrate stretched on a long chair bleeding from the neck and trying to enlarge the wound. The servant informed the missionary, who having discovered the magistrate's attempt at suicide, hurried off at once to the Governor to report what had occurred. At the Mission meanwhile every attention was paid to the wounded magistrate, who was not able to speak but made signs for a pencil with which, lying in the long chair, he wrote during that night and the following morning a number of short letters. One was addressed to Mr. Lacroche, another to the interpreter. The purport of each was that the magistrate was dying to save the people of Si-chang and not to break his word to those whom he had promised to save. In a letter to his brother he said: "An evil spirit is pursuing me; and I am dying in order to save the people."

Rumour immediately spread in the town that the priest had assassinated the magistrate. Delegates from the high officials were sent to the Mission to make enquiries and the next day the Provincial Judge himself held an enquiry. Mr. Lacroche conducted them round the premises and described all that had occurred. In the evening Mr. Lacroche received a letter from the Bureau of Foreign Affairs asking for the instrument by which the magistrate had come to his death. The missionary replied that he did not know what instrument had been used. With this note was sent a long statement, and it could not be dispatched till the day following the demand. That day handbills inciting the people to riot were freely distributed in the city. They were given away by persons of distinction riding in chairs and preceded by men on horseback. The officials in the meantime asked that the two servants who have been mentioned should be sent to the yamen for questioning, and suggested that Mr. Lacroche should accompany them. This he refused to do, on the ground that it would appear to lend colour to the story of assassination, and excite the people to riot. The Governor also sent a message to the Catholic Bishop through the Taotai of Kiukiang, practically accusing the missionaries of murder, and asking the Bishop himself to come to Nanchang. The Bishop replied that what touched the missionaries touched him, that he was therefore an interested or accused party, and could not adjudicate on it, and that the settlement must be by the Waiwapu and the French Minister at Peking.

During the two days before the massacre, placards inciting to riot were posted even on the Mission premises, which had been occupied by soldiers but more for the purpose of surveillance over the missionaries than for their protection. A military officer was heard to say to his men: "Look well to it that no Europeans escape."

In regard to all these matters, the report concludes, there is the direct evidence of Mr. Martin, who was by Mr. Lacroche's side right up to the moment of the riot, and of Mr. Rossignol, who had from Mr. Lacroche's own mouth the statement now published. The actual facts of the murder of the missionaries and the burning of the premises are summarised very briefly, and present no variations from the accounts already published.

A SHANGHAI QUESTION.

The appointment of a Native Consultative Committee for the purpose of co-operating with the Municipal Council at Shanghai is evoking strong protests from members of the foreign community. Dr. Gilbert Reid has expressed his view of the matter in the following terms:—"This Committee means business. High thinking will be practised; the wits of the Municipal Councillors will be tested. The one body is as official as the other. Advice concerning the wishes and needs and well-being of the Chinese community has always been ready to hand, but now it will be authoritative. The two bodies, if I am anything of a prophet, sooner or later must collide, and back of the six are 400,000. These six, I earnestly believe, are peace-loving men, but such a collision under such a backing will mean more excitement than has yet been witnessed. The scheme is to be swallowed with a grain of salt!"

SMUGGLING ARMS INTO CHINA.

A special cablegram from San Francisco to the Manila *Cablenews* dated 9 says:—"Through the accidental breaking open of a case, it has been discovered that arms are being smuggled on board mail steamers for shipment to China in the guise of ordinary merchandise."

Article V. of the protocol made between China and eleven Powers, including the United States, in 1901, states:

"China has agreed to prohibit the importation into its territory of arms and ammunition, as well as of materials exclusively used for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. An Imperial Edict has been issued on the 25th of August, 1901, forbidding said importation for a term of two years. New edicts may be issued subsequently extending this by other successive terms of two years in case of necessity recognized by the Powers."

A BIG JEWEL ROBBERY AT SHANGHAI.

The *N.C. Daily News* of the 6th inst. says: An astonishing jewel robbery, the details of which have been kept a close secret, took place in January last. A jewel case containing a draft for \$12,000 (gold) and diamonds valued at \$8,000 (Mexican) disappeared from a room in the Astor House. The police were notified, and Inspector McDowell was assigned to the case. It appears that Mrs. J. Gertetz, the wife of a wealthy Russian engineer, was a guest at the Astor House for some days in January last, preparing for a trip to America. She made but few friends during her stay in the Settlements but one was a woman, who was received several times in Room 40, Mrs. Gertetz's room. This friend was obliging enough to assist the Russian lady in purchasing such articles as were necessary for the voyage. In a burst of confidence Mrs. Gertetz disclosed to her friend the fact that the jewel case, which she invariably carried in her shopping bag, contained a Hongkong and Shanghai Bank draft on San Francisco for \$12,000 (gold), also some \$4,000 worth of jewels. On the 31st of January the friend called as usual at Room 40. In the evening Mrs. Gertetz had occasion to use a portion of her jewellery. Upon opening the bag she was surprised to find that the jewel case and its contents had disappeared. Inspector McDowell at once suspected the lady friend, but Mrs. Gertetz repudiated the idea, and his investigations failed to bring to light the slightest evidence to connect the friend with the disappearance of the jewel case. The local pawnshops were searched, a description of the jewels was telegraphed to all adjacent cities, and several suspects were carefully shadowed, all without result. Mrs. Gertetz was very anxious to proceed to America and when no trace of her missing property had been found by the 10th of February, ten days after the theft, she gave up all hope of recovering it and sailed for San Francisco.

Some days passed when a ricksha coolie brought to the Police Station the missing draft, which he had picked up in the street. The draft was returned to the Bank and eventually forwarded to Mrs. Gertetz at San Francisco.

Last Friday it was reported that a foreigner had offered a quantity of jewels for sale and, following up this clue, Inspector McDowell effected the arrest yesterday morning of an Australian named Handley. \$1,000 in cash and a part of the missing jewellery were found under the pillow of Handley's bed. Late in the day information thus obtained led to the arrest of an American named Morris Wart, and of Mrs. Childress, formerly of the Jessfield Inn and now living at 21, North Foochow Road. In consideration of the fact that Mrs. Childress has three little children she has been allowed to remain in custody in her own house until provision can be made for the children. A careful search of the house revealed no trace of the missing jewel case or other stolen articles. Last night two detective left for Ningpo armed with a warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Childress' husband, who is supposed to have disposed of some of the property.

DEATHS AT SHANGHAI.

Many circles in Shanghai, says the *N.C. Daily News*, will feel the gap caused by the death yesterday morning (5th inst.) of Mr. W. W. Clifford, who came to Shanghai as long ago as 1875. For sixteen years Mr. Clifford was connected with Messrs. Hall & Hols as accountant, and afterwards he was associated successively with Ball's Asbestos Company, the Central Stores, Ltd., the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co., and the Shanghai Electric and Asbestos Co. He took a lively interest in public affairs, though chiefly from the point of view of critic, and was a frequent correspondent of the newspapers. Socially he was a prominent Freemason, one of the founders of the Lodge Saltoun, and the originator of the Wilsley Club in Range Road. Mr. Clifford was not 57 years of age and much sympathy is felt with his widow who survives.

The death was also announced on the same day, though it took place the previous Friday, of Mr. A. Bidouac, a barrister who at one time

had a considerable practice at Shanghai, but who had been in failing health for some months. Mr. Bidouac was not one of the most successful of men, but he had a kindness of manner which all the buffetings of life could not overcome. His colleagues at the local bar have undertaken the responsibility for the funeral to-day as a tribute to his memory.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE FOR CHINA.

The 18th annual report of the Christian Literature Society (China), for 1904-5, has reached us. It contains excellent portraits of Archdeacon Moule, C.M.S., of the late Dr. Edkins, the late Miss Melvin, and some pictures of the Society's productions. The report states that Japan's victory over Russia has diminished European prestige in China, and referring to the boycott, takes the view that foreign powers ought to apply the golden rule in their relations with China. "The Chinese" (it is also said) "begin to realise that China needs to have a constitutional government on western lines." The election of thirty town councillors at Shanghai is cited as evidence that the Chinese are also turning their attention to municipal government. The writer of the report believes that the Chinese authorities are in earnest with regard to inaugurating reforms, showing "that powerful leaven is doing its work." But "the warlike spirit seems to be largely in the ascendant." The boycott "proved that China has begun to unite on national questions," and "We have thus before us the rise of public opinion in China, which may be a great power for good if directed into the proper channels." Education is advancing with leaps and bounds. The Missions also greatly advanced towards union, or complete co-operation, especially the Presbyterian bodies. Sales of the Society's literature had fallen off this year, owing to various causes; but the financial stringency, nevertheless, was passing away. Since 1838, \$173,414 worth of literature has been sold, the quantity for 1905 being \$24,028. We have given the salient features of the report; some of the opinions quoted in the beginning do not have our endorsement.

THE TRADE OF FORMOSA.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

In his review of the trade of Formosa, Mr. Shimozuka, one of the directors of the Bank of Formosa, said the economic situation in Formosa during the first half of last year was but little affected by the war. In the second half business gradually revived as the peace negotiations progressed. The weather was very favourable throughout the year, and the result of all agricultural work was satisfactory, the yield of sugar and tea being above that of a normal year. The sugar-refining industry, and the reclaiming of waste land, etc., had made good progress. The exports from the island amounted to Y24,300,000 and imports to Y24,400,000, showing an increase of Y1,500,000 in exports and of Y1,400,000 in imports. The value of foreign trade showed a decrease of Y3,500,000, but the trade with Japan showed an increase of Y6,500,000. This change was brought about by the increase in the production of tea, rice, sugar, and other commodities and also by the fact that trade with the Chinese coast on the other side of the channel was being gradually absorbed by transactions with Japan. During last year two banks were established by the utilisation of bonds in payment for the purchase of a "great lease" of land, as it is termed, and their bank advanced the capital on security of the bonds. Five credit leagues were also formed, the bank financing these also on the security of the bonds. The sugar-refining industry was steadily developing by the special assistance rendered by the Island Government, and the quality was gradually improving. During the advance of the sugar market in 1904 the area under cultivation was greatly increased, and two new refineries were established by the natives in addition to the formation of two sugar-refining companies. In June last year Government regulations for the control of sugar mills were issued, by which the adoption of machinery of a new class was encouraged, and as a result 44

refining houses adopted the new machines. Formerly the Bank of Formosa advanced funds to sugar merchants, who in turn advanced it to producers, but since the promotion of many sugar-refining companies and the adoption of new machinery, advances made direct to producers had much increased. The working of three gold mines in Keelung was being steadily extended. The value of gold bullion purchased by the bank during last year from the mines in the island amounted to over Y2,000,000, an increase of about Y300,000 on the figures for the preceding year. Advances made by the bank on the principal produce of the island such as tea, sugar, rice, and camphor during last year amounted to Y19,000,000 showing an increase of Y7,000,000 on the figures for the preceding year, the increase in advances on rice and sugar amounting to Y6,200,000.

After referring to the smooth circulation of the bank's convertible notes, Mr. Shimozuka stated that towards the end of the first half of last year a branch office was established in Foochow, which opened business on July 1st.

REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS.

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

We [*Singapore Free Press*] have to thank the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for a copy of the 1905 report which has reached us. The book contains besides accounts, etc., reports of the special general meeting, the annual and half yearly meetings. The report, however, is mainly interesting from certain correspondence published in regard to the Registration of Partnerships proposal. These letters were written in 1905 and must have been in the knowledge of the Chamber or at least the Chairman and Secretary when the famous meeting was held at which the Chamber by 19 votes to seven, opposed the principle of the bill. As we pointed out then the Penang Chamber was decidedly in favour of the scheme. It now appears, though we were not told so at the time, that both the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Hongkong Chamber recognised that legislation on the subject was inevitable and as far as Bengal is concerned was so desired that there the Chamber had actually framed a bill and it was Government which was hanging back. Despite this it was said in effect that no influential body in the East desired registration, and yet all the time both Bengal and Hongkong recognized that the desire was so strong that practical legislation was imminent if not pending. These letters in appendix K should give members of the Chamber considerable food for reflection, but they would doubtless have had far greater effect had they been printed and laid on the table of the now famous meeting of the "majority of twelve" who claimed to represent the real weight of opinion in the Settlement.

THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

It will be remembered that the Legislative Council passed a vote of condolence on the occasion of the death of King Christian of Denmark. That resolution which was worded as follows, was forwarded on January 31st:—

The Colony of Hongkong through its Legislative Council desires humbly to express the sorrow with which the intelligence of the death of the Queen's father has been received and its deep sympathy with Their Majesties the King and Queen in their bereavement.

NATHAN.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies London.

The following reply has been received:—

Downing Street,
6th February, 1906.

Sir,—I have laid before the King your telegram of the 31st of January, expressing the Colony's sympathy with His Majesty and with Her Majesty the Queen on the death of the King of Denmark.

His Majesty commands me to express on behalf of the Queen and himself his high appreciation of this kind and loyal message of sympathy from His people in Hongkong.

I have, &c.

Blair.
Governor Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

NEW JAPANESE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

REMOVAL OF THE WAR TAX.

The Japanese Government, considering that the Customs Tariff of 1897 is no longer efficient, has decided to effect certain amendments, and a Bill to that end has been submitted to the Diet. The Government states that the development of foreign trade and of home industries demand corresponding alterations of the tariff. The *Japan Chronicle* gives some of the principal goods affected by the new bill, showing the *ad valorem* duty imposed under the regulations of 1897 and under the amended scale.

	New Tariff.	Existing Tariff.
Rice	free	15 per ct.
Wheat	15 per ct.	15 "
Large beans (Daizu) ...	15 "	15 "
Flour	30 "	25 "
Sugar, under No. 8,		
Dutch standard ...	40 "	30 "
Furs	50 "	30 "
Sole leather	20 "	20 "
Raw silk (for weaving		
purposes	15 "	10 "
Grey shirting	30 "	15 "
Woollen cloths	30 "	15 "
Coal	free	5 "
Pig iron	5 per ct.	5 "
Iron, bar and rod ...	30 "	10 "
Galvanised sheet iron	25 "	10 "
Railway cars (goods		
and passenger) ...	20 "	10 "
Petroleum	50 "	50 "
Blankets	30 "	15 "

A most remarkable change is observed in comparing the duties on the following articles:—

	New Tariff	Existing Tariff
Margarine	60 per ct.	30 per ct.
Sugar, under No. 15,		
Dutch standard ...	50 "	20 "
Leather, for shoes ...	free	15 "
Pig leather	"	5 "
Animal bones	"	5 "
Shells	"	10 "
Silk cocoons	"	10 "
Gunny bags	10 per ct.	free
Rags	free	15 "
Waste paper	"	15 "
Mineral ore	"	15 "
Clay	"	5 "
Emery powder	"	10 "
Gold and platinum		
watch chains	60 per ct.	30 "
Waste and powdered		
glass	free	5 "
Magio lanterns and ac-		
cessories	50 per ct.	15 "
Raw Indian rubber ...	free	5 "
Perfumed waters, etc...	60 per ct.	30 "
Toilet soap	50 "	20 "

It is proposed to remove the war tax on all goods with the exception of rice, on which the duty will remain for one year from the conclusion of peace.

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

The following Japanese warships are expected to be launched or completed during this year:—

BATTLESHIPS.

- Katori* (15,000 tons).—Due from England in August.
Kashima (15,000 tons).—Due from England in August.
Satsuma (19,000 tons).—To be launched in October.

ARMOURD CRUISERS.

- Ikoma* (13,000 tons).—To be launched in March.
Kurama (14,000 tons).—To be launched in August.

DESPATCH BOATS.

- Mogami* (2,800 tons).—To be launched in July.
Yodo (2,500 tons).—To be launched in July.

Adding new destroyers, etc., the Japanese naval strength will be increased by about 90,000 tons at the end of the year. In addition to the above vessels the construction will shortly be commenced of the battleship *Aki*, of the *Satsuma* type, the armoured cruiser *Ibuki*, sister ship of the *Kurama*, and the despatch-boat *Tone*, sister-ship of the *Mogami*.—*Japan Gazette*.

THE DEFENCE OF THE NORTH EASTERN FRONTIER.

The Waiwupu and the Board of Revenue have submitted a memorial passing a Budget for the North Eastern Frontier for the 32nd year of Kuang Hsu. The principal sum is 2,000,000 taels to which is added a supplementary sum of 500,000 taels, which is allotted to the account of the new indemnity. The sum is to be raised from the Provinces as follows:—

	Principal sum.	Supplementary sum.
Shantung Land tax ...	120,000	24,000
Shansi Land tax ...	100,000	20,000
Chékiang Land tax ...	80,000	16,000
Kiangsi Land tax ...	50,000	10,000
Anhui Land tax ...	100,000	20,000
Kiangsu Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Kiangsi Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Chékiang Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Anhui Likin ...	50,000	10,000
Hunan Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Hupei Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Fukien Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Shanghai Customs 6/10		
Foreign Import duty ...	100,000	20,000
Hankow Customs 6/10		
Foreign Import duty ...	100,000	20,000
Kuei Kuan Native Customs		
duty	40,000	8,000
Hupei Tribute Rice		
Equivalent	40,000	8,000
Foochow Customs ...	100,000	20,000
Hupei Grain Treasury ...	40,000	8,000
Szechuan Salt-tax ...	150,000	30,000
Lianghuai Salt-tax ...	120,000	24,000
Szechuan Official Allowance	80,000	16,000
Shantung Grain Intendent		
Treasury	50,000	10,000
Kuangtung Likin ...	80,000	16,000
Canton Customs 6/10 Foreign		
Import duty	120,000	24,000
All Customs Gain by		
Exchange	10,000	

The principal sum must be remitted to the Board and the supplementary sum to the Shanghai Customs Superintendent in due time, or the officials concerned will be severely impeached.

Imperial Rescript: Let it be as proposed.—*Tientsin Times*.

A DESPERATE FIGHT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SIX HUNDRED MOROS KILLED.

One of the bloodiest and most terrific engagements in these islands took place yesterday, says the *Cablenews* of the 10th inst., at Mount Dajo, about five miles from Jolo. Six hundred of the most desperate element of the Moro outlaws, who were apparently impregably intrenched on the top of an almost impassable mountain, were slain before they would lay down their arms. The dash and grit which characterized the advance of the American troops, under every adverse circumstance, is unequalled in the history of this archipelago.

Zamboanga, Mindanao, March 9.

Severe action between troops, Naval Detachment, Constabulary and hostile Moros at Mount Dajo, near Jolo. Opening on the afternoon of March 6th and lasting until morning of March 8th. Action involved the capture of Mount Dajo, a lava cone 2,100 feet high with crater at summit. The cone extremely steep and rugged. Last five hundred feet lying at an angle of from fifty to sixty degrees. The last fifty feet practically perpendicular, approachable only by lava ridges covered with heavy growth of timber strongly fortified. Fortifications generally invisible from a distance.

Officers and men engaged in this expedition cannot be too highly commended for the magnificent manner in which they took this position. Total casualties all sources, eighteen killed fifty-two wounded. Subject to possible corrections.

WOOD.

LANDSLIP AT QUARRY BAY.

A landslip occurred at Quarry Bay on the 17th March whereby one Chinaman was killed and several others injured. The scene of the occurrence was the construction works for Messrs Butterfield and Swire. A gang of coolies, under Mr. J. Cree, had resumed their duties after the breakfast hour, when, without any warning, a portion of the earth gave way and the men suddenly found sand and stones falling upon them. There was no chance of escape and three of the men were covered in the debris which must have weighed several tons. Fortunately the accident was observed by another gang of men, who spreading the alarm soon brought many willing hands to the rescue. This was no easy task, but after considerable labour two men were excavated. They quickly recovered when brought to the surface. Meanwhile the rescuers redoubled their energies to save the third man, who was buried under a great mass of sand. At length he was reached, but on the body being brought to the surface life was extinct, death being undoubtedly due to suffocation. Mr. Cree was fortunate in escaping with only a few bruises.

BISHOP WELLDON IN HONGKONG.

A large congregation assembled in St. John's Cathedral on the 11th March, when the preacher was Bishop Welldon. Selecting as his text the words in Acts xvii., 26—"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth," his Lordship pointed out that humanity was one—one in its need for religion and one in its capacity to worship God. The difference, he said, between Christianity and other religions was that other religions might guide and inspire but Christianity was the only faith that could save. Unfortunately the preacher did not make himself audible to the majority of the congregation.

AMERICA AND CHINESE IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. Metcalf, Secretary of Commerce, at Washington has approved the report of the special committee providing for radical revision of the existing regulations regarding the entry and residence of Chinese in the United States. The alterations provide that there shall be no delay in the admission of Chinese, that the Bertillon system of identification shall be discontinued, and that Chinese labourers or the exempted class shall be notified on their departure of the conditions as to their re-admission. Twenty-four regulations have been excised or amended.

APPOINTMENTS.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Honourable Henry Edward Pollock, K.C., to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, vice the Honourable Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., resigned.

The King's Exequatur empowering Mr. H. M. Perez to be Consul for Panama at Hongkong has received His Majesty's signature.

Mr. D. J. Mackenzie is appointed a plague inspector in the Sanitary Department.

Mr. N. Post is provisionally recognised as Acting-Consul for Austria-Hungary.

An interesting feature of the passenger list by the homeward German mail, apart from its great length, is that it includes the names of six consuls—five German and one British. There is also a Minister—Count Arco-Valley, who has been serving as German Minister at Tokyo. Baroness d'Anethan, wife of the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Tokyo, is also a passenger. The Baroness is a sister of Mr. Rider Haggard, the well-known English novelist. Among the departures from Hongkong were Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Playfair, Mr. and Mrs. E. Shellim, Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Thomson, and Mr. A. H. Skelton. Altogether there were 291 passengers in the list, exclusive of children.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

March 15th.

THE HARBOUR POLICE.

Much indignation is expressed here at the alleged ill-treatment of the coolies and boat women by the harbour police on the arrival of steamers from Hongkong and Canton. No doubt our worthy harbour master, Senhor Alves Branco, is not aware of this reported bad conduct on the part of the men under him, and that he will enquire into it. It is said that his men have been seen striking these poor people with sticks.

BERRI-BERRI IN THE GAOL.

This dreaded disease has broken out among the prisoners in the gaol. The patients were removed to the plague hospital at "Bella Vista." I suspect the sanitary condition of the gaol. It is worth investigation.

RECLAMATION SCHEME.

I understand that some people are willing to form a private syndicate to reclaim the foreshore in the inner harbour from the river steamer wharves to the north point of Green Islands, but are afraid at present to present their petition to the Government. They are awaiting the arrival of Senhor Abreu Nunes, who is expected here soon. The syndicate will have an easy task before them, seeing that the foreshore of the inner harbour is now fairly silted up.

THE CHINESE MILITARY SCHOOLS.

The boys of these institutions in this city are getting notorious; some of them have already been to the Court twice. The authorities should arrange for stricter supervision.

NEW STEAM ROLLER.

The Public Works Department have now received the new steam roller.

FIRE.

A fire took place last week at the Cheong Kee tobacco factory. The loss was heavy and was not covered by insurance. This is the only Macao factory that supplies cut tobacco to Australia and America.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. H. Geary Gardner has been appointed manager of the Peking branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank during the absence on leave of Mr. E. Guy Hillier.

One of the Lamas in Tibet recently sent to the Throne Tls. 120,000, but only Tls. 20,000 reached Peking. He has now communicated with the Government asking for the matter to be investigated.

A belated Shanghai dispatch states that the Governor-General of Kiangsi requested the French war-ship to stop at Kvikiang. The Captain of the vessel ignored the application, and advanced to Nanchang. The Governor-General also requested that the French Captain should refrain from landing sailors or firing guns, and should not demonstrate against the inhabitants of the city. Full satisfaction was promised.

An important step has recently been taken by the Russian authorities towards the colonisation of the Far East. A circular has been distributed among the soldiers of the Manchurian Army asking for the names of those men who are willing to become enrolled in the Cossack settlements in the Ussuri region under a promise of a free grant of land in that region, together with the free conveyance thither of their families who are now in European Russia. The men do not seem to be very eager to embrace this opportunity of becoming settlers.

Among the many railway projects which are engaging the attention of the Chinese Government is one for a line from Ili to Lung Tschoh. The Governor-General of the province is in favour of obtaining the capital from Belgian financiers, believing that a country like Belgium would not seek to obtain any political advantages. The Russian Minister, however, fearing that the great interests of Russia in Ili would be detrimentally affected by the arrangement has addressed a letter to the Wai-wu on the subject.

The Yokohama Specie Bank was to hold its semi-annual general meeting on March 10th and subsequently an extraordinary general meeting, at which the establishment of branches at Osaka, Tairen and Mukden is to be discussed. The net profits for the past half-year amount to Y3,318,115 (including Y609,720 brought forward from last account).

A San Francisco telegram to Manila, dated March 9, reads:—"In future England will depend upon the navy to defend Weihaiwei, and the military forces are to be withdrawn."

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is sending a number of the best mechanics from the Han-yang Iron Works to Essen to go through a course of practical training at the Krupp Works.

Twenty-two Chinese undesirables arrived in the Colony by the s.s. *Derwent* from Saigon yesterday, also 18 persons deported from Singapore. They will be forwarded to various destinations in China by earliest opportunity.

The British demands in connection with the murders at Nanchang are stated by a Chinese paper to be the punishment of the murderers, an indemnity, and the privilege of stationing British gunboats on Poyang Lake for the protection of missionary properties in the interior.

Hongkong's financial statement for 1905 shows the receipts to have been \$6,918,403.85, of which \$500,000 was for land sales, and the expenditure to have been \$6,951,275.26. The revenue was only \$289,198 below the amount estimated, while the actual payments were also short of those anticipated by \$223,926. The liabilities at the close of the year amounted to \$15,119,399.32 and the assets to \$15,560,894.98, leaving a balance of \$441,495.66.

From Hankow the *N.-C. Daily News* hears that considerable sensation was caused there on the 6th inst. when it became known that the lessee and manager of the Astor House, Mr. Schröder, had been sentenced at the German Consulate to thirteen months' imprisonment. He apparently made arrangements with the bar boy to pay him on commission, and then cooked the accounts to cheat the boy of \$200. Mr. Schröder was only married about eight months ago, and there is much sympathy with his wife.

Mr. Geo J. Melhuish, manager of the Kobe house of Messrs Dodwell & Co., had an exciting time recently with a burglar. Mr. Melhuish's residence was broken into before daybreak by a man who appeared to be armed. Mr. Melhuish who was awakened, grappled with the man, whom he found in his room. In the struggle Mr. Melhuish was struck in the face by some weapon, whereupon he seized his revolver. He followed the thief downstairs and used his revolver, but the latter managed to escape, although it is thought he was hit.

The *Times of Ceylon* had this protest:—Another Holiday!—To-day being Ash Wednesday all the public offices in Colombo were closed. We have often protested against the unconscionable waste of time in public departments by these absurd survivals of the past, but there seems very little chance of common-sense prevailing, we are sorry to say. We wonder what would become of the real interests of the island if everybody followed the lead of Government and struck work on every conceivable opportunity. The story after all is not so very much exaggerated which tells of a Government servant calling each morning for the almanac to see whether he had to go to work or not.

Counsel are often allowed amazing latitude in American Courts of law. The following is extracted from a report of a Manila trial: "As to the testimony of witnesses regarding the good reputation of the accused, Prosecuting Attorney George said that Captain Dawson could never go forth from this courtroom and say that he is an efficient officer. And as regards to the matter of 'reputation' Mr. George said: Judas Iscariot had a good reputation until he went out into the darkness of the night and betrayed his Saviour. Judas had been disbursing officer for three years and had never touched a cent, and had he not gone out and hung himself when put on trial, he could have gotten all the apostles testifying as to his good character, and I say, with all respect for the witnesses who testified here for Dawson, that they are no better men than those who would have testified for Judas Iscariot."

The report for 1905 of the Shanghai Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd., whose paid-up capital is Tls. 363,660, shows a divisible balance of Tls. 159,420, or over 50 per cent. of the capital. It is proposed to write Tls. 52,637 off various accounts, place Tls. 25,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to Tls. 50,000, pay a dividend of 20 per cent., and carry forward the balance, Tls. 21,051.

The new regulations regarding North Borneo and Brunei, in connection with the naval base at Singapore, are much commented upon amongst Colonials in Holland. Some are of opinion that a long British line connecting Labuan and Singapore offers a splendid safeguard to the Dutch Indies against attacks from the north, while others fear the measure may lead to further British expansion in Borneo.

A Peking dispatch to a Japanese paper states that machinery for manufacturing opium recently ordered from England by Viceroy Yuan Shi-kai, cost Y1,490,000, and has a capacity of 30,000 pounds of opium daily. It is proposed to establish an opium monopoly upon the arrival of the machinery, and the Viceroy is confident that an annual revenue of ten million yen can be easily obtained from this one source.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Bank of Formosa was held recently. The net profit was placed at Y265,477, and disposed of as follows:—Y50,000 to the reserve for losses; Y10,000 to the reserve for the equalisation of dividend; Y10,000 to the special reserve; Y15,000 for bonuses; and Y125,000 for dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, carrying forward a surplus of Y55,477.

The British India steamer *Futtala* arrived at Singapore from Calcutta on March 7th with a number of Indian coolies on board who are bound for Fiji. During the voyage from Calcutta five deaths occurred among the coolies from small-pox. It is understood that eight more cases of small-pox have broken out among the coolies. The *Futtala* was quarantined.

In the persons of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Playfair, who left Hongkong by the *Princess Alice*, the Colony loses two of its oldest and most respected residents. Mr. Playfair was a Justice of the Peace, had been a member of the Legislative Council, and had occupied the presidency of the China Association and of the St. Andrew's Society, while Mrs. Playfair identified herself with benevolent work.

Nanchang, the scene of the recent massacre of missionaries enjoys (according to Mr. Clennell) a situation of remarkable beauty, but is for the capital city of a prefecture a curiously poor place. It was desolated by the Taipings in 1856, never recovered from the disaster, and now barely contains more than five thousand people. It has many monuments of its former importance, principally in the form of ornamental archways over the streets. At this time of the year a small gunboat ought to have no difficulty in reaching the head of Poyang Lake.

We call special attention to a paragraph in our Canton letter, referring to infectious diseases there. It seems obvious that all the efforts and precautions of the authorities of this Colony to suppress smallpox and plague are by way of ploughing the sands, or sweeping back the tide, so long as the present easy communication with Canton continues. The idea of a person with smallpox ferrying luggage to and from steamers in the river—an incident merely typical of the callous way in which pestilence stalks abroad at the neighbouring port—is shocking in the extreme. The difficulty is to find a remedy.

According to a report the Government of Samoa has sent numerous inquiries to the planters of the Navigator Islands as to the success which has attended the importation of Chinese labourers. The replies showed that the Chinese were generally regarded, both in respect of their work and their mode of life, as quite satisfactory. They, however, also made it clear that the Chinaman requires a strict master. The relations between the natives and the coolies were favourable, thanks to the strict measures taken by the Government, but the natives were inclined to be unfriendly. The fears that the coolies would introduce disease have not been realised. The Government is now investigating the question of withdrawing their trading licences from the small Chinese shopkeepers, owing to representations made by the German commercial interests, which fear Chinese competition in shopkeeping.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

The Amoy and Formosa Market Report states that the Formosa Oolongs season is closed. The export of tea from Amoy and Formosa for the season 1905-6 was 18,891,657 lbs. of Tamsui Oolongs to the United States, showing as compared with the returns at the same time last year an increase of 1,174,117 lbs.; to London 495,438 lbs., a decrease of 9,395 lbs.; and to other countries 43,460 lbs., an increase of 739 lbs. The total settlements 275,899 lbs. show, as compared with the previous year, a decrease of 23,718 lbs.

SILK.

CANTON, 24th February, 1906:—Long-reels.—The activity of the preceding month is over, buyers refusing to pay the increased prices. Exchange has steadily advanced and this has not been followed by the expected decline in dollar prices. Most of the reelers having sold their stock, besides contracting their production for some time to come, ask now very high prices, consequently business is checked. From sales made we quote: Fres. Sun Yu Lun 9/11 at \$890, Wing Wo Lun 9/11 at \$880, Yuk Wo Hing 10/12 at \$880, Wing Po Cheong 10/12 at \$879, King Seng 11/13 and 13/15 at \$870, Nam Seng 13/15 at \$845, Heen Kee 16/18 at \$785, Best 2me. ordre 18/22, at \$750, Best 3me. ordre 11/13, 13/15, 14/18, at \$745. Short-reels have only been moderately dealt in. The highest price reported as paid is \$830 for Kwong Shun Ching 14/16. Waste Silk.—After a few days' weakness prices have again reached a very high level, and some fresh business has been done. The demand has chiefly run on "Extra Selected Opened and Unopened." In the country holders still maintain a very firm front. Stock of Silk in Canton about 800 bales.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 2nd March, 1906, states:—The home markets are unchanged, Gold Killing is quoted in London at 12.6, and in Lyons at Fcs. 35. Raw Silks.—A small business continues to be done in Tsatlees, the continued rise in exchange is responsible for a slight drop in Tael prices Hangchow Tsatlees and Kashings are in request and a few sales are recorded at prices quoted below. Yellow Silks.—A purchase of Mienchew at Tls. 360 is the only transaction we hear of. Hand Filatures.—There is some inquiry for these silks from New York, but consumers are unwilling to pay the high prices dealers are asking, consequently there is an utter absence of business. Steam Filatures.—Medium and low grade chops continue to find buyers in fine sizes for Europe, but the volume of business is small. Waste Silks.—Nothing doing.

OPPIUM.

HONGKONG, 17th March

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	.....\$1000	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	.....\$1050	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	.....\$1100	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	.....\$1170	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	.....\$1050	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	.....\$1100	to	—	do.
Patna New	.....\$922½	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	.....\$902½	to	—	do.
Benares New	.....\$865	to	—	do.
Benares Old	.....	to	—	do.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	.....\$8.40 to \$8.45 per c.
Do. " 2, White	.....7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown	.....6.30 to 6.35 "
Do. " 2, Brown	.....5.30 to 5.45 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	.....8.00 to 8.10 "
Do. " 2, White	.....7.10 to 7.15 "
Do. " 1, Brown	.....6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown	.....5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	.....10.50 to 10.60 "
Shekloong	.....9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	.....\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Round, good quality	.....3.60 to 3.65
" Long	.....3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	.....2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1	.....3.75 to 3.80
" White	.....4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	.....4.20 to 4.25

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 8th March, 1906, states:—No complaint could be found with the weather during the greater part of the interval, and, as though to confirm the reasons given of the inability to ship during the long spell of rain, clearances have shown great improvement. The disappointing news has been received from Newchwang that the Port is not likely to be free of ice until the 25th instant, so no relief can be expected in that direction for another week or ten days, and meanwhile fresh cargoes are arriving in a most inconvenient manner. Nor is that the only trouble arising from the congestion. Buyers, or their shipping agents, have and are finding the greatest difficulty in getting delivery of goods called for by the importers' delivery orders and passes. This has led to irregularities in some instances in shipping exact numbers of the bales called for by those passes, and these latter documents are being frequently confiscated by the Customs Authorities in consequence. So far as fresh business is concerned the trade is at an absolute standstill again. Sterling exchange is responsible for this to a great extent, the uncertainty it imparts to transactions being quite prohibitive. In response to a decline in silver, rates have fallen about three per cent., but just when the effect was becoming apparent, by the greater life that was instilled into that market, a reaction upset everything again, and instances are not wanting of buyers asking for a reducing in prices owing to the advance in exchange, although a corresponding advance in the commodity in question had never been established! Such are some of the vagaries the import merchant has to put up with here. There is no news of the Tientsin market. Latest advices from Newchwang report the river will not be navigable until the end of the month, so buyers are holding off until they are rid of the large quantities they have already on hand. River trade does not improve as rapidly as could be wished. Brighter prospects are almost in view for the trade with Szechuen, if the report is true that Tls. 8,000,000 has already been raised towards the projected railway from the Province to Hankow. Trade is reviving both at Chefoo and Kiaochow. Another steamer is on the berth for Corea, although what we said about the market there has been amply confirmed; a smaller quantity will be taken. The effervescent feeling that seemed to be so conspicuous over the whole country the last month or two seems to have quite subsided. The easier feeling in the Manchester market noticed during the last week or two appears to have been quite a passing shadow. It is very strong again and Manufacturers are once more well engaged forward. Cotton has gradually recovered to 5.89d. for Mid-American, while the price for Egyptian has jumped to 9½d. The exports of Plain Cottons from Lancashire last month was more moderate, being only 44,000,000 yards to Hongkong and China, with 1,300 bales yarn to this market alone. There is no news from New York, the home trade occupying the attention of manufacturers who will only accept orders for export at extreme prices. No Cotton quotations have been received. The yarn market is firmer owing to a good demand from Szechuen, but was somewhat disturbed by the vacillating exchange. Native Cotton is also a little higher. Another local mill, Soeychee, has just presented a favorable report, but have availed themselves of the opportunity of writing down plant, etc. and thus incidentally reducing their bank overdraft, rather than pay a large dividend. Business has been almost entirely confined to the Auctions, from the results of which will be seen the benefits anticipated by a fall in exchange. The movement so far is without stability and does not inspire operators with much confidence.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai 5th March, 1906, states:—Gallnuts.—Business in this article is very dull indeed as dealers are still holding out for prices which consumers at home are unwilling to pay. However, should exchange drop a little further we shall no doubt see a revival of trade. Cowhides.—Only a very limited business has been done in the meantime. Tobacco.—Nothing new to report. Feathers.—Small parcels only are taken out of the market. Prices remain about the same. Cotton.—There is no strength in the market owing to the absence of demand, but nevertheless Chinese are unwilling to lower their prices. The recent drop in exchange will no doubt confirm holders in their belief that they will get higher prices if they wait a little longer. Tallow.—Only a few transactions have transpired, prices being rather high. Strawbraid.—All Mottleds remain in good

demand but supplies are short. This also applies to fine white Braids and fine and coarse Split. Owing to the shortness of all desirable goods only very few transactions have been put through in the meantime. Goatskin Rugs.—Demand is very keen and all parcels coming to this market find ready buyers at high prices. Wool.—Prices are firm owing to strong demand from America.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nubia*, sailed on 14th March. For Antwerp:—400 bales hemp. For London:—40 cases camphor, 15 bales feathers, 2,856 bales hemp, 4 cases Manila hats, 180 bales canvas, 100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For London:—976 boxes tea, 4 packages furniture, 6 cases ginger, 43 packages private effects, &c., 2 packages sundries, 30 packages preserves.

Per P. & O. steamer *Dongola*, sailed on 15th March. For London:—4 cases silks, 91 bales waste silk, 2 packages sundries, 5 cases opium, 50 rolls matting, 3 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—25 cases cigars. For Manchester:—250 bales waste silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—6 cases birds feathers, 2 cases wood oil, 4 cases printed paper, 1 case chinaware, 2 cases cigars, 12 cases private effects and curios. For Marseilles:—10 cases feathers, 25 bales waste silk, 271 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—860 bales raw silk.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	MONDAY, 19th March
Telegraphic Transfer	.....2/0 9/16
Bank Bills, on demand	.....2/0 1/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	.....2/0 1/16
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	.....2/0 1/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	.....2/1 1/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	.....2/1 1/16
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	.....258
Credits 4 months' sight	.....262
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	.....210
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand 49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	.....504
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer 153
Bank, on demand	.....153½
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer 153
Bank, on demand	.....153½
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight 71½
Private, 30 days' sight	.....72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand 100½
ON MANILA.—	On demand 99½
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand 15 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand 123½
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand 3½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand 3 p.m.
ON BANG OK.—	On demand 62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	.....\$9.65
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	.....\$51.10
BAR SILVERS, per oz	.....30½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 10th March.—There has been more demand for tonnage during the period under review. From Saigon to Hongkong 12 cents last; to Philippines 27 cents to 29 cents according size; to Vladivostok 48 cents; to Java and Japan, no inquiry. From Iloilo to this 20 cents per picul last; to Tientsin a small carrier got 50 cents per picul. From Hongay to this \$1.40; to Canton \$2.00 per ton; to Amoy \$2.50 per ton. From South Japan coal port to this \$1.30 per ton. Time charters. The *Dr. Hans Jurg Kiser* has been taken up by the Hamburg-America Linie, and the *s.s. Lisa* by local Chinese. The following are the settlements:—

Battenhall—British steamer, 1,378 tons, Moji to Hongkong \$1.30 per ton.
Fernandez—British steamer, 2,444 tons, Moji to Hongkong \$1.30 per ton.
Braemar—British steamer, 2,316 tons, Moji to Hongkong \$1.30 per ton.
Dagay—Norwegian steamer, 882 tons, 2 trips Hongay to Canton \$2.00 per ton.
Marie—German steamer, 1,000 tons, Hongay to Swatow \$1.50 per ton.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Hongay to Amoy \$2.50 per ton.
Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong 20 cents per picul.
Kristberg—German steamer, 648 tons, Iloilo to Tientsin (15,000 piculs) 50 cents per picul.
Rein—Norwegian steamer, 725 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.
Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 891 tons, Saigon to Cebu (20,000 piculs) 29 cents per picul.

Hans Wagner—German steamer, 961 tons, Saigon to Manila (24,000 piculs) 27 cents per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to Hongkong 12 cents per picul.

Lisa—Swedish steamer, 1,216 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5,400 per month.

Dr. Hans Jurg Kiaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, monthly, 12 months, at \$1,500 per month.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th March, 1906.—The market continues dull and we have only a few investing transactions to report; rates however, have shown some signs of steadying, and investing buyers are in many cases unable to purchase except at an advance on the quoted rates. Speculative business continues practically nonexistent and shows no signs of recovery.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have declined to \$855 at which rate several small sales have taken place; the London rate has also fallen to £89. At time of writing, however, a better feeling is apparent, and it is doubtful whether many more shares would be forthcoming except at an advance in the rate. Nationals have been placed at \$40 and more shares are wanted at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have further improved to \$900 with sales, and close steady at the rate. China Traders have been placed at \$96 and \$97 closing with buyers at the former and sellers at the latter rate. Cantons have found buyers at the improved rate of \$350 and close steady at that. The Northern Insurances are quoted from the Shanghai advices, being without any local business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled steady with an inclination to improvement and small sales have been made at \$300. Chinas continue in demand and difficult to procure at \$83 to \$84, and we have heard of no sales. Market closes with no shares on offer and with a small unsatisfied demand at \$84.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to \$24½ with sales, a demand at \$24½ meeting with no response. At the time of closing, although a few more shares are obtainable at \$24½, the market closes decidedly firmer and higher rates may be looked for in the near future. Indo-Chinas continue neglected and weak; shares have been on offer during the week at \$95, but no sales have been reported of any consequence. China-Manilas are on the market at \$18½ ex div., and New Star Ferries are offering at \$23; we have nothing further to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain out of favour and without business; sellers ruling the market we have no sales to report. Luzons continues quiet and practically out of the market.

MINING.—We have only small sales of Raubs to report at quotation.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue to rule dull, but shares are not easily obtainable at present prices, and holders seem to have decided to hang on. Kowloon Wharves have been placed during the week at \$103, \$102½ and later at \$101½ ex div. of \$3½ paid on the 15th inst. Farnhams, after touching Tls. 115 in Shanghai, have again improved and close firmish at Tls. 120. New Amoy Docks close without business, but are firmer at \$16½ buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in some small demand, and offers to buy at \$112, \$113 failing to bring out shares, the rate rose to \$114 at which a few shares changed hands. At time of writing buyers do not appear to be inclined to pay the closing price, but at a point under a few more shares might be placed. Hotels have ruled very weak and sales are reported at \$131, market closing weak at \$132 sellers. West Points continue neglected at \$53, but buyers at two points lower fail to obtain shares. Humphreys have been placed at \$11½, and close steady at that. Shanghai Lands and Kowloon Lands are without any business.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have improved in Shanghai to Tls. 67. Other stocks under this heading call for no special remark.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos are enquired for at \$7½, but none seem to be available. Green Islands have been placed during the week at \$30½, and later at \$30 closing at the latter rate. Watsons have found buyers at \$13 and Powells at \$11. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$855, sales London, £89.
National B. of China A. Shares	25	\$40, sales & buy.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 67, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$16½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 64
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 120
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$101½, ex div.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$153
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$16½, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 22½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21, ex div.
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16½
Do. New	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. H. L. T. Railways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$132, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$143, ex div.
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$10, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$350, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$84, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$96½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, sales
North China	25	Tls. 92½, sales
Union	\$100	\$800, sales & sel.
Yangtze	\$60	\$180
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$114½, sales & buy.
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	\$53, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18, 10	\$3½, sales
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$51
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$208, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$35, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18½, ex div.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, buyers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$24½
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$94, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	24½
Do. Preference	210	23, 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$4½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 8th March, 1906, states:—The business for the week under review has been conspicuous for a serious decline in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares, but on the whole the market has been fairly steady. Covering sales for the March Settlement still goes on, and with the exception of a little miscellaneous business there is very little else to be done just now. The T. T. rate on London has declined to 2/8½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There is no business to report. The rate in Hongkong is quoted at \$860 ex div. and the latest London quotation is £91. 10s. ex dividend. Marine and Fire Insurance.—There is nothing to report under this heading. Shipping.—Business has been very meagre indeed. Indo-Chinas. A few shares have changed hands at Tls. 68½ April and Tls. 70 July when the market suddenly weakened and sales took place at Tls. 68 March, to still further decline to Tls. 67 yesterday. Shanghai Tugs. No business this week. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnhams, Boyd & Co., Ltd. have sustained a slight decline, and after sales at Tls. 121 for March and April the market dropped suddenly to Tls. 118½ March, at which rate a few shares have changed hands. Forward sales have been made at Tls. 122 June and Tls. 123 July, but at the close there are sellers at Tls. 120 June. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A large business has been done in this stock since our last and a severe drop has taken place. We cannot account for this sudden decline. On the 1st inst. sales were made for March at Tls. 227½, and 237½ July, with no business reported on the 2nd, but with sellers of large lines who could not get a bid, the market on the 3rd was forced down to Tls. 220 March and Tls. 230 July, and Tls. 235 September. On Monday, when the market reopened, sellers still prevailed and shares changed hands at Tls. 217½ March, Tls. 227½ July, and Tls. 232½ September. These were the lowest rates touched and a slightly better feeling was manifested. At the close we should quote March rate at Tls. 220, July Tls. 227½, and Tls. 235 for September. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Co. A few shares have changed hands at Tls. 70 for cash; the forward rates for this stock are weak, and we can give no genuine quotations. China Sugars are quoted at \$214 buyers from Hongkong. Mining.—Nothing reported this week. Land Shares.—An unsupplied demand for Shanghai Land Shares carried the rate from Tls. 113 to Tls. 115, at which rate they are steady. Industrial.—Ewos have further increased in value since our last. On the 1st sales were made at Tls. 59 and 60 March; shares being still wanted the rate has since been carried to Tls. 62. Internationals have been placed at Tls. 60 cash. Laon-Kung-Mows have changed hands at Tls. 64. Shanghai Gas Co. There are buyers at Tls. 130. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. A slight decline has taken place in this stock. Business was resumed this week at Tls. 233 March, and a fair number of shares being on the market with but very few buyers, the rate declined to Tls. 229 followed by sales at Tls. 228, at which rate a good business was done. We close steady at this price with buyers for June at Tls. 235. Sumatras have been dealt in at Tls. 60. Stores and Hotels.—Central Stores have been done at \$18 (old) and \$7.50 (new shares). S. Moutrie & Co. are quoted at \$75; Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 18 and 17½. Miscellaneous.—Telephones quoted at Tls. 58. Loans and Debentures.—A fair business has been done in these during the week, and Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. Debentures are quoted at Tls. 96, Astor House 8 per cent. at Tls. 105; Shanghai Land 5½ per cent. at Tls. 88, and Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. debts. at Tls. 98.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 19th March, 1906.

Apricot	\$31	"	—
Borax	\$14	"	\$17.00
Cassia	\$14	"	\$19.00
Cloves	\$20	"	\$36.00
Camphor	\$165	"	—
Cow Bozoar	\$180	"	\$162
Fennel Seed	\$6.50	"	—
Galangal	\$6	"	—
Grapes	\$19	"	—
Kisamis	\$19	"	—
Glue	\$25	"	—
Olibanum	\$2	"	\$16
Oil Sandalwood	\$230	"	\$275
" Rosa	\$50	"	\$130
" Cassia	\$153	"	—
Raisins	\$9	"	—
Senna Leaves	\$5	"	—
Sandalwood	\$24	"	\$30
Saltpetre	\$11.20	"	—

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—

ARRIVALS.

- 9, Amigo, German str., from Saigon.
 9, Bengloe, British str., from London.
 9, Dongola, British str., from Shanghai.
 9, Hercules, Norw. str., from Sourabaya.
 9, Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 9, Mongolia, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 9, Mortlake, British str., from Saigon.
 9, Rajah, German str., from Kohsichang.
 10, Benelouch, British str., from Liverpool.
 10, Castor, Norw. str., from Singapore.
 10, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Ichang, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Limso, French str., from Dunkirk.
 10, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., from Sydney.
 10, Wingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 10, Zweena, British str., from Java.
 11, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 11, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 11, Panther, Austrian g-bt., from K'chanwan.
 11, R. Grange, British str., from Newcastle.
 11, Shansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
 11, Shantung, British str., from Hongay.
 11, Teenkai, British str., from Liverpool.
 11, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 11, Umballa, British str., from Akyab.
 12, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 12, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 12, Ithaka, German str., from Yangtze.
 12, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 12, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 12, Kweiyang, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 12, Victoria, Chinese str., from Karatsu.
 13, Achilles, British str., from Amoy.
 13, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Diadem, British cruiser, from Kobe.
 13, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Indravelli, British str., from Durban.
 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Lyeemoon, German str., from Wuhu.
 13, Nubia, British str., from Yokohama.
 13, Prinzess Alice, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 13, Pronto, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 13, Seald, British str., from Singapore.
 13, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 14, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 14, Emps. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 14, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Hilary, German str., from Panarakan.
 14, King Alfred, British str., from Portsmouth.
 14, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., from Nagasaki.
 14, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 15, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, Keemun, British str., from Liverpool.
 15, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 15, Merionethshire, British str., from London.
 15, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
 15, Pitsanulok, German str., from Hoihow.
 15, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Aldershot, British str., from Fremantle.
 16, Gregory Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 16, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 16, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Shah Allum, British str., from Rangoon.
 16, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 16, Swanley, British str., from Marseilles.
 16, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 17, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 17, Cairo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 17, Deramore, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 17, Itola, British str., from Rangoon.
 17, Johanna, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Kansu, British str., from Saigon.
 17, Kostroma, Russian str., from Vladivostok.
 17, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 17, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 17, Phnyen, French str., from Sourabaya.
 17, Senegambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 17, Siam, British str., from Singapore.
 17, Teutonia, German str., from Moji.
 18, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 18, Kampot, French str., from Kwangchauwan.
 18, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 18, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., from Moji.

March—

DEPARTURES.

- 9, Australian, British str., for Moji.
 9, Dacia, German str., for Shanghai.
 9, Elia Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 9, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

9, Germania, German str., for Bangkok.

9, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.

9, Hanyang, British str., for Kobe.

9, Hebe, German str., for Singapore.

9, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.

9, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.

9, Sungkiang, British str., for Amoy.

9, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

10, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.

10, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., for Tsingtau.

10, Dongola, British str., for Europe.

10, Hans Wagner, German str., for Saigon.

10, Hunan, British str., for Tsingtau.

10, Knivsberg, German str., for Iloilo.

10, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.

10, Mazagon, British str., for Moji.

10, Mortlake, British str., for Kobe.

10, Oceana, British str., for Shanghai.

10, Seminole, British str., for Yokohama.

11, Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.

11, Brunhilde, German str., for Kangcon.

11, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.

11, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.

11, Limao, French str., for Shanghai.

11, Ohio, U.S. flag ship, for Manila.

11, Shahjehan, British str., for Saigon.

12, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.

12, Castor, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.

12, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

12, Teenkai, British str., for Shanghai.

12, Umballa, British str., for Japan.

13, Benelouch, British str., for Yokohama.

13, Berneo, German str., for Sandakan.

13, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.

13, Ithaka, German str., for Canton.

13, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.

13, Lisa, Swedish str., for Chefoo.

13, Panther, Austrian cruiser, for Swatow.

13, Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Kobe.

13, Progress, German str., for Newchwang.

13, Tean, British str., for Manila.

13, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.

13, Tungshing, British str., for Swatow.

13, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.

13, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.

14, Aragonia, German str., for Portland.

14, Falodon Hall, British str., for Saigon.

14, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.

14, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.

14, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.

14, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.

14, Prinzess Alice, German str., for Europe.

15, Achilles, British str., for London.

15, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.

15, Choyasang, British str., for Shanghai.

15, Derwent, British str., for Vladivostok.

15, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.

15, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.

15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.

15, Minnesota, American str., for Seattle.

15, Nubia, British str., for Singapore.

15, Oro, British str., for Singapore.

15, Peik, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

15, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.

15, Rein, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

15, Seald, British str., for Kobe.

15, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

15, Zweena, British str., for Bangkok.

16, Amara, British str., for Samarang.

16, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

16, City of Birmingham, British str., for Hainan Straits.

16, Diadem, British cruiser, for Japan.

16, Hercules, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.

16, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.

16, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.

16, Kweiyang, British str., for Newchwang.

16, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.

16, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Amoy.

16, Woolwich, British str., for Salina Cruz.

17, Albert Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.

17, Bourbon, French str., for Swatow.

17, Cairo, Norwegian str., for Vladivostok.

17, Devawongse, German str., for Amoy.

17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.

17, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.

17, Ke mun, British str., for Tacoma.

17, Lydia, German str., for Shanghai.

17, Merionethshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.

17, Mongolia, Amr. str., for San Francisco.

17, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.

17, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.

17, Rubi, British str., for Manila.

18, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.

18, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.

18, Itola, British str., for Yokohama.

18, Kansu, British str., for Moji.

18, Teutonia, German str., for Hamburg.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Dongola*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Capt. and Mrs. Schellhouse and child, Messrs. H. K. Hemans, J. R. Mikkens, Capt. Wakefield, Messrs. H. S. Rosenthal, N. Romolo, M. Emmannulla, G. Amberta, N. Lugenia, Mr. and Mrs. Missim, Miss Gubbay, Messrs. W. Eason, H. Leeman; for Singapore, Mr. A. Morrison; for Colombo, Mr. E. Norbury; for Brindisi, Mr. E. Christri; for Marseilles, Mr. S. Lamb; for London, Capt. R. Smith, Eng. Comdr. Cotton, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Smith, Mrs. Watson and child, Messrs. G. Ailshorn, A. O. N. Gosling; from Yokohama for Bombay, Mr. H. E. Stanton; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Norbury, Mr. W. D. Verschoye, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hayward.

Per *Oceana*, for Hongkong from London, Mrs. and Miss Bone, Mr. and Mrs. Pousonby, Dr. and Mrs. Fanning, Corpl. Baker, Lieut. Hamley, Miss Parlance, Messrs. Sandford, Young, Comdr. Colomb, Rev. Stevens, Rev. Campbell, Messrs. Jno. Blair, Geo. Vickers, Mrs. and Miss McGregor and child, Mr. and Mrs. Kersey, Miss Mullins, Lieut.-Col. Sanders, Messrs. A. M. and E. Lupton, Kremantz, Mrs. Jamieson; from Marseilles, Dr. McDougall, Bishop Welldon, Bishop of Victoria, Mrs. and 3 Misses Hoare, Miss Griffin, Major and Mrs. Comfort, Messrs. Lethbridge, P. Nye, K. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan Morgan, Miss Collit, Mr. and Mrs. Hadow, Messrs. Forster, Macanlay, Rev. R. Good, Messrs. Platin, J. W. Hunter, B. P. Dobson, E. J. Dobson, Messrs. Bowditch, Derby, W. Tildson, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Whorry; from Gibraltar, Lieut. O. G. S. Vaz, Mr. W. B. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, Miss Lange, Mrs. Parton, Messrs. Ritter and Hayward; from Brindisi, Misses Sutherland (2), Mr. and Mrs. Lovland; from Melbourne, Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith; from Port Said, Capt. Martinotti, Mrs. and Miss Newett; from Bombay, Messrs. J. Hassum, Orgill, R. v. and Mrs. Sellow; from Colombo, Rev. A. A. Ward, Mr. W. E. and Miss Gurin, Mr. and Mrs. Q. M. S. Taggart and child, Rev. Banning, Mr. and Mrs. Williams; from Penang, Mr. Gilleray; from Singapore, Messrs. B. Godfrey, J. and C. E. Robert, A. Trick, Scovelle (2), Rev. W. L. Scholes, Mrs. and Miss Lugika, Rev. Bone, Messrs. S. R. Sandri, Amger and Parsons, Miss Lottias and Mr. Longstaff; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. J. Raich, Crookdale, Webb, Hamlon Mr. and Mrs. Aires, Mr. Howell, Miss Denham, Messrs. Youngs, G. Williams, Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Messrs. Hall, Aires, Rev. Jones, Miss Byron, Messrs. Kennerly, A. S. Lewis; from Marseilles, Messrs. Hillier, Outram, Schlingman, Janner, R. Roucha; from Brindisi, Mr. Cohn; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Karanjia, Mr. Setha, Mrs. and Miss Johnston; for Kobe from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers; from Bombay, Mr. J. Hussan; for Yokohama from London, Misses Clough (2); from Marseilles, Mr., Mrs. and two Misses Barr, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Leith H. Clark; from Penang, Mr. Lazarus.

DEPARTED.

Per *Dongola*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. E. W. Newman, Dr. J. E. Muschart, Dr. T. H. Ameschof, Mr. E. Cameron, Miss E. Cameron, Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Halbert, Mr. R. L. Leigh Clark; for Colombo, Messrs. J. F. Gale and Frank Wilmot; for Bombay, Mr. E. Soomar; for Marseilles, Mrs. Stephana, Messrs. K. Von Hoffman and T. W. Barnes; for London, Mrs. W. W. Clayson, Sergts. G. Watt, E. O'Sullivan, T. Perkins, Pitt, Miss A. M. Pitt, Messrs. R. H. A. Craig, A. L. Meyers, S. S. Higginson, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Cocks and infant, Comdr. J. C. Watson, Messrs. H. S. A. Sane, P. C. Potts, S. B. Lawler.

Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, for Shanghai, Messrs. McEwen, Armistead, Heilmann, Fama, J. D. Noris, Rosario, Maher, A. Kaynon, L. Francisco, Krager, Isarella, Stefanon, Priest, P. Bosio, Kria, Mr. and Mrs. Senna, Mr. and Mrs. Jaffer; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Matsumoto, Kiyoda, Sakai; for Kobe, Dr. Mackenzie, Messrs. E. Chambers, and Kuto; for Yokohama, Messrs. R. M. Falconer, Allison, Orosoo, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke Taylor, Mrs. Curtis.

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